

20th January 1930]

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I have no objection to the adjournment."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have also no objection, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I take it that it is the pleasure of the House to have these amendments taken up for consideration as the first item to-morrow."

The consideration of the amendments was accordingly postponed till the next day.

VII

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1929-30.

GRANT VI. IRRIGATION—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant VI—Irrigation—Reserved.

" Sir, this sum of Rs. 300 is made up of three token sums of Rs. 100 each. The first sum of Rs. 100 relates to the diversion of a portion of the Gowtami right bank in the Ubalanka and Ravulpalem limits. This portion was seriously eroded during the floods of September last and it is necessary that steps should be taken to prevent further erosion. For this reason it is proposed to spend Rs. 10,000 during the current year. The total cost of the work is Rs. 35,840.

" The second item relates to the protection of the left bank of the Akhanda Godavari. This is generally washed out every year and the measures taken from time to time are found to be inadequate. It is therefore proposed to construct two stone groynes so that the current may be diverted towards the right arm and to pitch the margin and revet the slope. The total cost of the works is Rs. 12,500 of which we propose to spend Rs. 8,000 during the current year.

" The third item relates to the diversion of the upland drainage above the Cauvery and the Vennar regulators in Tanjore. The drainage from an area of 22 square miles enters the old Vennar and thence flows into the Vennar above Katchamangalam anicut. This upland drainage brings a large volume of water during the north-east monsoon and consequently the cultivated areas under the Vennar and its branches suffer badly from submersion. It should be brought under control and diverted into the Cauvery above the Cauvery-Vennar regulators by excavating a channel from the old Vennar course across the Cauvery right bank. It is very desirable that the work should be carried out at once. The construction of the new Grand Anicut Canal of the Cauvery-Mettur Project cannot be completed until this is done. It is therefore proposed to carry out the work as soon as possible. The total cost is estimated to be Rs. 2,01,700 out of which a sum of Rs. 3,000 is likely to be spent during the current year."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XII. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—MISCELLANEOUS.

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 under Grant XII—General Administration—Miscellaneous.

[Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell]

[20th January 1930]

"This sum is required to provide for the contribution to the Government of India towards the cost of the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee. I think hon. members of this House are aware of the work which is being carried on by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee and the Provincial Committees. The Government of India suggested that the Provincial Governments should contribute about half the cost of the expenses incurred by the Provincial Committees in connexion with the enquiry. The total cost of the Provincial Committee is estimated at about Rs. 66,200 of which Rs. 43,400 will be incurred during 1929-30 and the balance of Rs. 22,800 during 1930-31. The cost will be met by the Government of India in the first instance and it is suggested that we should pay Rs. 30,000 this year and the balance will be provided in the budget for the next year."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I beg to move that the allotment proposed may be reduced by Rs. 100 for this reason that this banking enquiry will not be finished by the end of April. From the questionnaire sent to us, it seems that the enquiry is a very complicated one covering so many points and such a vast field that the period fixed is quite inadequate. If this enquiry is to be finished within that period, I am sure it will be a very superficial enquiry. From what I have come to know about it, the time at their disposal seems to be quite inadequate. I am afraid the Government of India have entered into an enquiry which will do nobody good if the time at its disposal is not extended for a very much longer period. Further there should be on the committee expert officials with a thorough knowledge of the economic condition of the country. The non-officials who are now on the committee have, I am afraid, very little time to devote to this enquiry carefully. In some cases they are either not at all fit for the work or do not possess the qualifications necessary for this widespread and manifold enquiry on complicated points. I therefore first want to know whether the time fixed will be at all adequate for completing the enquiry, whether we would not be asked to vote for further grants and whether it is worthwhile spending valuable money on an enquiry the results of which would not be of much use to the country."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"I second the motion."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I wish to enquire of the Government whether any other province has agreed to contribute a portion of the expenditure of these committees. My information is that some provinces have declined to contribute. Sir, this is an investigation instituted by the Central Government and therefore the whole cost must be borne by them and no portion should be collected from the provinces. Seeing that the other provinces have declined to contribute any portion of the cost of this committee, I do not see why this Government should undertake the responsibility to contribute half the cost. No reasons were assigned for throwing this liability on the revenues of this province."

"Sir, from the note I see that four districts have been chosen for intensive investigation by this committee. Why these four districts have been selected as against other districts has not been explained. An enquiry of a detailed nature into the economic condition of the agricultural people generally has been asked for by this House from time to time and no attention has been paid to such representation by the non-official members on this side of the House. Sir, the banking enquiry is only an indirect method of enquiring into the economic condition of the people. If, as is stated in the note placed in our hands, an intensive enquiry is intended to be made in the four districts of

20th January 1930]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

Bellary, East Godavari, Coimbatore and Madura and only a general survey of the conditions in the province as a whole in regard to agriculture and other small industries allied or supplemental to agriculture, I fail to see what purpose would be served by the intensive survey in the abovementioned four districts only. The principles governing the economic condition of the people are common to all the districts and therefore it is necessary that this investigation should extend to all the districts in the Presidency and not be limited to only four districts. What is the use of a 'general survey' throughout the province, unless the principles are definitely laid down? I am informed by my hon. Friend from Bellary that the committee sat only for three days in Bellary and is believed to have nearly completed its work there. If that is so, if only three days are necessary for an intensive enquiry, I fail to see what useful purpose would be served by such an enquiry. And, as I said, it is unnecessary that this province should pay any portion of the expenditure towards an enquiry which is intended to benefit the Central Government. Therefore, Sir, unless satisfactory reasons are assigned why this province should undertake to defray a portion of the expenditure, I propose to vote against this demand."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I do not think it is necessary for us to go into the details of the working of this committee, to record a vote on this matter. This is a committee appointed by the Government of India and as such, wherever it works and whatever work it may do, the cost of it should be borne by that Government only. A reason urged in the note is that the Provincial Government is as much interested as the Government of India in the labours of this committee. I will reverse it and say that there are several committees appointed by the Provincial Government in connexion with the work of which the Government of India is as much interested as the Provincial Government; are they going to come to our rescue and share the cost of those committees? Now, we have got the Royal Commission coming to our province. Are the Madras Government going to defray the expenses connected with its investigation wholly or partially? I am entirely opposed to bad precedents and conventions. I think this is a matter entirely for the Government of India. They may pay for the expenses of the committee in any way they like, liberally or otherwise. Having initiated this committee, 11-45 I think they must be prepared to defray the cost. I think it would be a bad a.m. precedent if this Government should agree to bear half the cost. Even if the other provinces have done so it is no reason why the Madras Government should follow such a bad example."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha appeared to take some exception to the personnel of the committee on the ground that this enquiry is a matter largely for experts to conduct. Now, Sir, we have in the chairman an officer who has had considerable experience in co-operative banking and as the head of the co-operative department he must be aware of the conditions affecting the finances of the people in the villages as well as in towns. There is also on the committee a Professor of Economics. The non-official members are representatives of various interests, viz., indigenous banking, agricultural, commercial and urban. There is every reason to expect that this committee should be able to give us a very valuable report."

"As regards the suggestion that they are not making a very thorough enquiry owing to the short stay they make in each district, I may point out

[Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell]

[20th January 1930]

that they have working for them certain investigators of the grade of Tahsildars who collect the necessary materials for them and from those materials the committee should be able to arrive at decisions. It is hoped that the report of the committee will be submitted to us on the date on which we have asked them to submit it, that is, by the end of April.

“As regards the question whether a contribution ought to be made by this Government towards the cost of this enquiry, I understand that only two provinces have so far declined to make any contribution, i.e., Bengal and Bihar and Orissa and that other provinces are contributing towards the cost of the provincial committees.”

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“Why should we?”

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“We are very much interested in the results of this enquiry and we hope to get very useful material from the labours of this Committee. On other similar occasions I believe a portion of the cost was borne by this Government. In the case of the Statutory Commission this Government bore the cost of the Provincial Committee which sat with the Statutory Commission. I therefore beg to move that this grant be made.”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“I associate myself with the remarks that have been made by hon. members who have spoken on this side of the House. Personally I happened to know something of this enquiry committee. Considering the circumstances of the case, I should have preferred that Government should have appointed a real banking expert as the Chairman of this Committee. Personally I have no grievance against the present Chairman, but I hardly think that his qualification that he is a member of the Civil Service and that he has been the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for about two years is sufficient enough to enable him to become the Chairman of the Banking Enquiry Committee. The circumstances of the case are so complicated that we should have expected the Government, in order to get useful information from the labours of this Committee, to have appointed, as Chairman of the Committee, one who is really a banking expert. Besides, as has been mentioned by previous speakers, the time allowed is so inadequate that I do not think that results of any value would be achieved. I should think that, if it is the intention of the Government that the agricultural population of our Presidency should be benefited, we should have had a much more thorough enquiry which is likely to give some beneficial results. I therefore oppose this grant.”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“I would like to know if the Government of India would refuse to hold an enquiry into the economic conditions of all the districts if the contribution is refused. The present enquiry is only a partial enquiry in a few selected districts. I think it ought to be extended to other districts also. If the Government of India refuses to extend this enquiry to all the districts but holds it only partially, I think we had better refuse our contribution.”

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“I regret very much that I have to differ from hon. members who have spoken so far in opposing this grant. The only objection raised to the making of this grant is ‘the Government of India have appointed this Committee and let them bear the whole cost of it’. That seems to me to be hardly convincing. As was mentioned by the hon. the Revenue Member, in the case of the Statutory Commission this Government bore the cost of the Provincial Committee that was appointed to assist the Royal

20th January 1930]

[Mr. P. Siva Rao]

Commission. My hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro was the Chairman of the Provincial Committee and he is one of those who were paid out of the Provincial revenues for having worked on that Committee."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"That was a Committee appointed to assist the Royal Commission. Do not confound the two issues."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I will leave all confusion to my hon. Friend over there."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I request the hon. Member to address the Chair and attribute the confusion to him, if he wants." (Laughter.)

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Sir, in the explanatory note that has been circulated to us it has been stated that 'the heads of enquiry allocated to the Provincial Committees are mainly agricultural credit, special study of the working of co-operative banks and co-operative marketing, etc.'. It goes without saying that we are as deeply interested in the problem as the Government of India are. Besides that, there are certain aspects of the Agricultural Commission's report to be considered and the Provincial Government would have had to think of appointing some committee for making an enquiry on the same lines even if the Government of India had not undertaken the task. Now, Sir, this move on the part of the Government of India saved the local Government the necessity of appointing a committee of their own to make the requisite enquiry in this direction. So, this is a very legitimate burden and in my humble opinion it ought to be borne by the Provincial Government. And merely because the Government of India have taken the lead in this matter, I see no reason why we should feel shy in bearing a portion of the cost. One word more and I have done."

"The other objection to the making of the grant is that the time allowed for the enquiry of the Committee is inadequate. I do not think that hon. Members seriously mean that the time allowed is too inadequate for the purpose of making this enquiry. If that is so, they should move for an extension of time and also ask for extended terms of reference. Nobody who has spoken so far has made that suggestion. On the other hand, they want to cut out the grant. As for the query put by the hon. Member from Anantapur, I may tell him that it is very likely that the Government of India may not continue this enquiry at all if this amount is not voted by this Council."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will put the motion of Mr. Saldanha. The question is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,000 under Demand XII—General Administration—Miscellaneous by Rs. 100."

The motion was declared lost.

A poll was demanded which was accordingly taken and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 7. Mr. K. P. Raman Menon. |
| 2. Mr. J. A. Saldanha. | 8. „ C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar. |
| 3. „ K. Uppi Sahib. | 9. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 4. „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 10. „ Sir A. P. Patro. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. | 11. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 6. Mr. R. Nagan Gowda. | 12. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur. |

[20th January 1930]

Noes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 20. Mr. J. A. Davis. |
| 2. The hon. Sir M. Krishnan Nayar. | 21. „ R. Foulkes. |
| 3. „ Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell. | 22. Rao Sahib P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai. |
| 4. „ Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. | 23. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur. |
| 5. „ Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar. | 24. Zamindar of Singampatti. |
| 6. „ Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 25. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur. |
| 7. Mr. Hilton Brown. | 26. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 8. „ H. A. Watson. | 27. „ N. Siva Raj. |
| 9. „ A. G. Leach. | 28. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami. |
| 10. „ J. Gray. | 29. „ V. I. Muniswami Pillai. |
| 11. „ S. V. Ramamurti. | 30. Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandian. |
| 12. „ C. B. Cotterell. | 31. „ S. Subrahmanya Moopnar. |
| 13. „ V. Ch. John. | 32. „ Daniel Thomas. |
| 14. „ M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar. | 33. „ S. Venkiah. |
| 15. Khan Sahib Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur. | 34. „ C. E. Wood. |
| 16. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan. | 35. „ R. J. C. Robertson. |
| 17. H. B. Ari Gowder. | 36. „ S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 18. Mr. A. B. Shetty. | 37. „ G. R. Premayya. |
| 19. Mr. J. Bheemayya. | 38. „ V. Ramjee Rao. |
| | 39. „ P. Siva Rao. |

Neutral.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi. | 6. Mr. P. T. Rajan. |
| 2. Mr. H. F. P. Hearson. | 7. Muhammad Khadir Mohideen Sahib Bahadur. |
| 3. „ F. E. James. | 8. The Maharaja of Pithapuram. |
| 4. „ A. J. Leech. | |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu. | |

Ayes 12. Noes 39. Neutral 8.

The motion was negatived.

12 noon. * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The question is that ‘the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 under Grant XII—General Administration—Miscellaneous’.”

The demand was carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXI. MEDICAL—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—“Sir, I move, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100, under Grant XXI—Medical—Transferred, for carrying on ante-natal and post-natal work in the Women and Children Hospital. This matter has been under the consideration of the Government for some time. It is considered necessary to start this work even this year. Therefore I am moving this supplementary demand. The necessity for this work has been discussed more than once on the floor of this House and I therefore do not think it necessary to say anything more on the subject. The idea at present is to appoint a lady assistant surgeon and two health visitors. The proposal to appoint a civil surgeon later on and to do away with the lady assistant surgeon is under consideration. The question whether the lady assistant surgeon should also continue will also be considered. Even before these questions are considered and decided upon, it is considered necessary to start the work and to appoint a lady assistant surgeon and two health visitors. Therefore I move this supplementary demand.”

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—“I second it.”

20th January 1930]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member, Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi has given notice of a cut motion. I am not able to decide whether the subject matter of the amendment is relevant to the demand. Is it her intention that the medical officer to be appointed should be of the civil surgeon's grade and not of the assistant surgeon's grade ? ”

* Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—“ Sir, I want to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that the officers who are going to be appointed to be in charge of the ante-natal and post-natal work will be women officers, because it is stated in the explanatory note that the temporary lady assistant surgeon will be there till the 1st April 1930 and that the question of appointing a medical officer of the civil surgeon grade is under separate consideration. It is not stated in the note whether the civil surgeon who will be appointed, will be a lady officer or not. My point is that the Government should make up their mind even now that only women officers should be put in charge of this work.

“ For the reasons stated above, I move that the allotment of Rs. 100 under Grant XXI—Medical—Transferred be reduced by Re. 1. I have many a time stated before this hon. House that ante-natal work is welfare work and is more a preventive than a curative work. Even in European countries this work is done by women. My wish is that in this country also where the majority of our women would not seek medical aid from men medical officers for diseases associated with pregnancy and child-birth, this preventive work should be done only through women for women; it may be stated that the health visitors will form a connecting link between the doctor and the women patients but health visitors are only subordinate officers and the patients will have to be examined by male doctors and the expectant mothers will have to be given instructions about their daily habits such as their diet, sleep and the importance of breast-feeding, etc. Unless the patients have confidence in the doctor, they will not be willing to express their difficulties, fears, misgivings, etc., to the male doctor. Therefore it is but proper that the work should be done by women. There are a number of women graduates possessing high medical degrees, such as M.B. & B.S., who are unemployed. We have been persuading our women to take to the profession of medicine. We are giving them scholarships for qualifying themselves as graduates of medicine. Many of such graduates are unemployed in spite of the fact that medical aid for women is very very inadequate both in the city and in the mufassal. It is often stated against the employment of women medical officers that the Government Maternity Hospital is a teaching and training institution for male students in medicine. Even then I plead that this teaching can be done as efficiently by women as by men, because all the patients on whom demonstrations are done are women. When I was a student undergoing training in that hospital, I learnt all my practical work from the senior nurse and matron even though I learnt my theory from my professors. There is no reason why qualified women should not teach male students, especially in hospitals where there are only women patients. There are many women hospitals, like the Lying-in Hospital, the Victoria Hospital in Triplicane, the Rainy Hospital in Tondiyarpeth and the Kalyani Hospital in Mylapore, which are very efficiently managed and which are as much popular as the Maternity Hospital which is staffed mainly by men officers. Then with regard to teaching institutions and colleges, there are the Lady Willingdon

[Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi] [20th January 1930]

Medical School, the Queen Mary's College, The Women's Christian College, where the results compare better than those of the colleges staffed by men doctors. I have already drawn the attention of the hon. Minister, in my budget speech, to the urgent necessity of employing a certain number of women officers in the Government Maternity Hospital because it is one of the best equipped hospitals in the world. The other women hospitals do not have as much accommodation and as much equipment as the Government Maternity Hospital. Much knowledge and experience can be gained in that hospital by medical women if the practice is made available to them. When women graduates gain experience from that hospital, it will be surely used for the benefit of many Indian mothers, both expectant and nursing, both inside and outside the hospital."

The MAHARAJA OF PITHAPURAM :—" Sir, I beg to second this amendment. Our women, whether they observe purdah or not, are reluctant to be examined by men, more so when they are pregnant. If the Government accept this amendment, people, both men and women, will be under a deep debt of gratitude to them."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi. The explanatory note is not clear. It is stated that a lady assistant surgeon will be appointed for only three months and that afterwards she will be replaced by a Civil Surgeon. We do not know whether a gentleman or lady doctor will be appointed. The object of the amendment is to clear this point. Only lady doctors should be appointed so that they may gain the confidence of women patients. All over the world, wherever maternity work is attended to, only ladies are in charge of it. Otherwise these institutions will not be of much use. Our Maternity Hospital is supposed to be the best in India, they say, the best in the whole world. Still, about 60 per cent of the people from the city and the mufassal are not taking advantage of the Maternity Hospital because it is solely manned by male doctors. The Rainy Hospital, the Kalyani Hospital and Gosha Hospital of Triplicane, attract people of all sorts; the same is not the case with the Maternity Hospital. I wish that the hon. Minister can assure us that this work will be entrusted only to women and that men will have nothing to do with it. The Welfare Scheme of the Corporation of Madras is very popular because there are women doctors to take care of women. I hope the Government will follow the good example of the Corporation of Madras."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I do not know whether the glowing picture, which my hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar drew of the work done by the Corporation will cast any reflection against the work done in Government hospitals. I am sure that he is partial towards the Corporation"

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I can prove it."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Whatever that may be, it is clear from the explanatory note that a lady assistant surgeon will be appointed immediately and that the proposal to appoint a civil surgeon to assist these lady doctors is under consideration. Considering the customs of the country, the Surgeon-General has recommended the appointment of a lady assistant surgeon. The details of the work to be done by health visitors are given in the note, i.e., assisting in the ante-natal department in the examination of women and gaining their confidence; I do not know how a male civil surgeon can be put in charge of this work. Visiting pregnant women on the books

20th January 1930]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

Bellary, East Godavari, Coimbatore and Madura and only a general survey of the conditions in the province as a whole in regard to agriculture and other small industries allied or supplemental to agriculture, I fail to see what purpose would be served by the intensive survey in the abovementioned four districts only. The principles governing the economic condition of the people are common to all the districts and therefore it is necessary that this investigation should extend to all the districts in the Presidency and not be limited to only four districts. What is the use of a 'general survey' throughout the province, unless the principles are definitely laid down? I am informed by my hon. Friend from Bellary that the committee sat only for three days in Bellary and is believed to have nearly completed its work there. If that is so, if only three days are necessary for an intensive enquiry, I fail to see what useful purpose would be served by such an enquiry. And, as I said, it is unnecessary that this province should pay any portion of the expenditure towards an enquiry which is intended to benefit the Central Government. Therefore, Sir, unless satisfactory reasons are assigned why this province should undertake to defray a portion of the expenditure, I propose to vote against this demand."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I do not think it is necessary for us to go into the details of the working of this committee, to record a vote on this matter. This is a committee appointed by the Government of India and as such, wherever it works and whatever work it may do, the cost of it should be borne by that Government only. A reason urged in the note is that the Provincial Government is as much interested as the Government of India in the labours of this committee. I will reverse it and say that there are several committees appointed by the Provincial Government in connexion with the work of which the Government of India is as much interested as the Provincial Government; are they going to come to our rescue and share the cost of those committees? Now, we have got the Royal Commission coming to our province. Are the Madras Government going to defray the expenses connected with its investigation wholly or partially? I am entirely opposed to bad precedents and conventions. I think this is a matter entirely for the Government of India. They may pay for the expenses of the committee in any way they like, liberally or otherwise. Having initiated this committee, 11-45 I think they must be prepared to defray the cost. I think it would be a bad a.m. precedent if this Government should agree to bear half the cost. Even if the other provinces have done so it is no reason why the Madras Government should follow such a bad example."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha appeared to take some exception to the personnel of the committee on the ground that this enquiry is a matter largely for experts to conduct. Now, Sir, we have in the chairman an officer who has had considerable experience in co-operative banking and as the head of the co-operative department he must be aware of the conditions affecting the finances of the people in the villages as well as in towns. There is also on the committee a Professor of Economics. The non-official members are representatives of various interests, viz., indigenous banking, agricultural, commercial and urban. There is every reason to expect that this committee should be able to give us a very valuable report."

"As regards the suggestion that they are not making a very thorough enquiry owing to the short stay they make in each district, I may point out

[20th January 1930]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I shall now put the demand to the vote of the House. The question is that a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 be granted to the Government under Grant XXI—Medical—Transferred."

The demand was carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXII. PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 200 under the head 'XXII—Public Health and Vital Statistics—Transferred' for the following two purposes : (i) Grant to the Corporation of Madras for a housing scheme in Bogipalayam cheri and (ii) grant for investigating a water-supply scheme in the Penukonda union.

" From the note which has been supplied to hon. Members it will be found that the mortality in Madras from diseases is very high, especially from respiratory diseases. High mortality is found to exist in the cheris in which the poor classes of people reside, and it has therefore been found necessary that a housing scheme should be started, as an experimental measure. This experimental measure was also considered desirable with a view to enable the Corporation of Madras and other mufassal municipalities to undertake such work in the future, and for this purpose the Government have decided that a grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs should be made. Of course, as stated in the note itself, no further grant is contemplated for the purpose. It is not within the financial capacity of the Corporation at present, although it is to a certain extent its duty, to provide housing accommodation as far as possible to the working classes and to improve the sanitation of the towns, and the present scheme is only an experiment, so that it may serve as a model both for the Corporation of Madras and other municipalities. This grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs will be the only grant made for the purpose. It may be asked, Sir, why the Government should make this grant to the Corporation of Madras. As I said, this is only an experiment and Government think it necessary to make this grant, so that the scheme may be thought of by the various municipalities in the mufassal and they may follow the example of the Corporation of Madras. This grant to the Madras Corporation will by itself lead very little to the lessening of the congestion in cheris, but the Corporation will itself have to provide later on much larger sums, if this experiment proves successful. The Madras Government, at any rate now, propose to make no further grant.

" As regards the other proposal, a water-supply scheme was considered necessary, and although schemes were considered more than half a dozen times before, owing to the financial condition of the Penukonda union, the schemes were not carried out. Even now, when we find it necessary to start a water-supply scheme there, the union is unable to pay the preliminary expenses necessary for investigation, which come to Rs. 9,000 and odd. The Government, therefore, instead of making a half grant towards the expenses of this scheme, as is usual in such cases, have decided to make a full grant of Rs. 9,500. (Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the usual grant be given later on ?) The hon. Member for Bellary is asking whether in respect of the full cost of the scheme itself, a grant will be made. A half grant will certainly be made ; but whether anything more than that should be made or not is a question to be considered only afterwards. As regards the expenses

20th January 1930] [Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar]

of the investigation, Government consider that a sum of Rs. 9,250 is necessary, and so I move that a token grant of Rs. 100 be made for this purpose also."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I oppose this grant. In his speech, the hon. the Minister said that he hoped that the rest of the municipalities in the Presidency will follow the Madras Corporation and ask the Government for grants. I hope the Minister also will follow suit as he has done in this case, and make grants for building houses in each municipality. Each house will, according to the estimate given here, cost Rs. 800 which is more than the cost of an average house in this Presidency. Sir, in the explanatory note it has been stated that on account of respiratory diseases, the mortality in this city is very high. I think the best cure for respiratory diseases is to send the people over to dry areas like Bellary or Anantapur instead of keeping them on here. I think it is the moist air here in this Presidency town that causes the respiratory diseases. This however is a layman's opinion. Sir, more devastating and deadly diseases than the respiratory diseases have been prevailing in the Presidency, and so far the Government have not come forward to hold any conference with the municipalities concerned in order to devise means for housing the poor people. Sir, in this Presidency, plague has been often visiting places like Bellary, for instance, and no attempt has been made to provide a housing scheme there. Whenever any question of town extension was raised, the Government simply said that it was not their business. But here they come forward with a proposal to help the Corporation of a very rich city which could easily find money for this housing scheme, and they want to give not a few thousand rupees, but as big an amount as Rs. 2½ lakhs. If the Government wanted only to place a model to copy, they could as well build 30 houses instead of 300.

" Again, Sir, I do not see any mention made here about the way in which this amount is to be recovered either by the Government or by the Corporation. They are going to build 300 houses for Rs. 2½ lakhs at the rate of about Rs. 800 each. It is not known whether these houses are going to be given free to the poor people or whether the Corporation or the Government is going to recover the cost from the people. If the Corporation is going to recover the cost from the people, then the Corporation can as well go in for a loan from the Government and pay it off in instalments. Therefore, Sir, I oppose, this demand."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I oppose this grant for this reason, firstly that I do not see the urgency for the Government to come before the Council now with a motion for this grant. I do not see why they should not bring it up along with the budget, for in that case we shall be able to see how the Government propose tackling the problem of high mortality and diseases not merely in Madras but in other urban areas. Knowing, as I do, many places in this Presidency—I think they must also be well known to this Council—where conditions of illness and mortality are very serious indeed, I think it is easy to see that very little has been so far done by the Government to improve the conditions in rural areas. I do not think any one will say that Government can spend indefinite amounts for this purpose ; after all, their resources are limited, and we on this side of the House would claim that such resources as are at the disposal of the Government should be equitably distributed between the Madras Corporation

[Mr. R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar] [20th January 1930]

and the other municipalities and rural areas. If Government had brought forward this proposal as part of the budget proposals, we would have been in a better position to see how the amount was equitably distributed between the urban and rural areas.

"Secondly, Sir, I do not see why this free grant should be made to the Corporation of Madras at all. It is a fairly rich Corporation and I think it must be in a position to easily find money for such purposes; or, the Government can give a loan to it in respect of the amount proposed in the motion before the House. While I quite agree that conditions in Madras are bad enough, I do not see why the Government should single out the Madras Corporation alone for this help, while, so far as I know, it is not proposed to do anything adequately in respect of the rural areas."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I agree with the former speaker in saying that there is no urgency whatever for this demand. It seems to me that we are having so many demands this morning, the urgency of which is to be questioned very much. In connexion with the grants for Irrigation and Hospitals at least there is some justification to say that a new scheme or new service has been contemplated and therefore there was some urgency; but in the case of this grant, it seems to be ridiculous to bring this forward at the fag-end of the year, when the budget for the next year is to be introduced very shortly. It is not possible that any money could be spent by the Madras Corporation at this time, and the amount also is a free gift to the Corporation. In the rural areas there is a crying need, a pressing need for such grants, and whenever local bodies apply for such grants, the Government treat such applications with scant courtesy. The distressing condition of the backward classes and the depressed classes in the rural areas is something very hard and indescribable. I do not say that the poor people in Madras City do not deserve any consideration—I quite sympathize with them—but the question is, is it justifiable that the Government should give a free grant of such a big amount as Rs. 2½ lakhs to the Corporation at this time? If there is to be any justification at all, the Government should work out detailed plans and put them before the House. From the note supplied to us, it is not possible for any Member—at any rate for me—to gather any reason for the urgency of the grant or any justification therefor. Hon. Members will find that in paragraph 3 of the note it is stated :

'As the scheme is to be an experiment which may guide the Corporation in tackling the more general aspects of the housing problem and which may also serve as a model by which other local bodies may test similar proposals, Government have agreed to make a full grant of Rs. 2.51 lakhs towards the cost of the scheme, on the understanding, however, that no grant will be admissible in respect of any future schemes of the kind.'

"This gives away the whole case and makes the position of the Government very weak in the matter of this grant. If really the matter had been seriously considered by the department concerned, they would not have dared to put forward a demand such as this at this stage. I submit, Sir, the necessity for it, the urgency for it, has not been made out. On that ground, I oppose this demand.

"There is one point in connexion with this grant, and it is this: if really the Government are satisfied that the Madras Corporation deserves such help and encouragement in order to relieve the distress of the poor people in the City, why not they take up a comprehensive scheme in regard to rural areas also and consider it with equal generosity? I would ask the Government to

20th January 1930]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

place before the House more convincing arguments to show that they are considering some proposals or principles in respect of the rural areas also and that having made up their mind to make a free grant to the Madras Corporation, they would also be prepared to make similar free grants to the rural areas. Moreover, the fact that the amount is to be met by reappropriation from the provision for this year means that there has been bad budgeting in the previous year. If there is any surplus amount in the budget, it only means that there has been bad budgeting; and the demands that we are meeting in this House from time to time only go to show that there has been bad budgeting by the departments. Last year, the Public Accounts Committee drew the attention of this House to the fact that all the lapses of grants were entirely due to bad budgeting. Therefore, it is necessary that that kind of bad budgeting should be stopped. And because it is suggested in the note that the amount can be met by reappropriation, we should not think that this is a light affair. It is a very important matter of principle with regard to budgeting. And with regard to the grant, as I said before, there is absolutely no need whatever to come at this time of the year for a grant to the Corporation of Madras. The Corporation deserves no consideration whatever. If the Corporation really wanted this money, why could not they have kept up the house-tax at the proper level? They have reduced the house-tax and they thereby demonstrate to the public that they are so generous. They now come up to the Government and ask for a grant. Let the finances of the Corporation be properly re-adjusted, let the Corporation understand its own duty and it is only then that this House will contribute anything to assist the Corporation. The Madras Corporation have not done so; they have reduced the house-tax and thus reduced the finances of the Corporation. That being the case, it is simply ridiculous for the Government to make a free gift of this grant to the Corporation." 12-30 p.m.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I rise to support the Opposition and in doing so, I shall not repeat the reasons already advanced by the several hon. Members who have opposed this grant. But, there are one or two curious points about this application for the grant. First of all, I wonder why the hon. the Minister for Public Health should come forward with this grant. I think it is the function of the Minister for Local Self-Government to come up for a grant, as it is the money that is required on behalf of the Corporation of Madras."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"It relates to town-planning."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"But there is nothing mentioned about town-planning in the explanatory note."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Public Health and Town-planning are in the hands of the Health Minister, while the constitution of the Corporation is in the hands of the Chief Minister."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The other point is more important. It is a wonder that the Government should come forward with this proposal at the instance of the Commissioner. It is stated that 'it was finally discussed in May last at a conference between representatives of Government and the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras.' It is not stated that the Corporation really refused to provide the funds. The Corporation has not considered any scheme of the sort and they have not refused to make any grant for the

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

[20th January 1930]

purpose. I want to know why Government should come forward with a free gift without the Corporation's demand. I do not know if there was any meeting of the Corporation held, at which it was decided that it was in need of funds to carry out such schemes and that it should apply to Government for a grant applied for. If not, why should the hon. the Minister for Public Health, with the consent of the hon. the Chief Minister, come forward with this demand? Is it election stunt or something like that in order to show that the Minister for Public Health has sympathy for the improvement of the health of the people? I think that unless the Corporation really refused to do its duty, it is superfluous for the Government to come forward with this offer.

"It is also a bad precedent for Government to come forward with an application for such a grant on behalf of a Corporation. Not only the Madras Corporation, but also the mufassal municipalities would make claims on this precedent for a grant. The Madras Corporation is not poorer than the other municipalities in the mufassal. If this is the case, surely our municipality at Mangalore which is in need of habitations for the poor, as also several other towns should also apply for similar grants. We could say, 'You have granted two and a half lakhs to the Madras Corporation, give us some thousands at least.' I think we shall be perfectly justified in making this demand and I think the hon. the Minister for Public Health as also the hon. the Chief Minister ought to make this kind of concession to other municipalities also. For these reasons and for the other reasons advanced by the previous speakers which I shall not reiterate, I urge that this grant should be refused."

* Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, the upper and the middle classes in the City of Madras are now living according to the Western mode of life and are building big bungalows for them to live in. Most of the lands of cheris in Madras are bought for the purpose of building these bungalows. The people in those cheris are driven out to move elsewhere; so congestion is caused in the various cheris in the City. It is on account of this congestion that the death-rate in the City is increasing and it has become a question of life and death for the poor. I therefore think that this grant is very urgent and should be made so that the people in the cheris may be housed elsewhere."

* Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I should congratulate the Government for having come forward with a proposal of this sort so generously to improve housing for those who deserve most. I am sorry to observe that while they do this to this extent, they want to make it a condition that no grant will be admissible in respect of any future schemes of this kind. The note itself points out that there are something like 142 hutting grounds which will have to be improved. They say in another connexion, in considering the financial position of the Madras Corporation, that the finances of the Corporation do not make it possible to find funds for the construction of over-bridges and that the Government are anxious to provide full grants to the Corporation. Sir, it is not reasonable to say that they would give as an experimental measure only for two hutting grounds, and leave the other 140 hutting grounds to be developed, by the municipality, which according to them cannot find funds. I should think that it is a most niggardly way of tackling a most pressing problem. Sir, I should like the Government coming forward, in respect of not merely two hutting grounds, but also in respect of the other 140, by providing the funds necessary in the course of a few years and not to leave it merely to the Madras Corporation. I do not agree with

20th January 1930] [Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

my hon. Friend Sir Patro when he said that the Madras Corporation should not have reduced the house-tax. I know the Madras Corporation and I do not think that any amount of taxation that they may raise will be sufficient to meet the recurring expenditure of a big municipality like the Madras Corporation. There has been some observation with regard to the rural needs and rural health. I was one of those who at the last budget urged strongly that the hon. Minister should find a way out to see that the sanitation and health of the villages are improved and if necessary to constitute a public health fund. The objections raised here, are not, I believe, with a view to refuse the grant of the nature that has been asked for to-day but to ask the hon. Minister what he proposes to do with regard to rural schemes which are much more urgent and necessary. While the Government tackle with this scheme of the Madras Corporation, it is certainly more important to deal with the districts and the Government should make a sincere beginning in that direction. On these grounds, I support the grant. I would support this proposition if this grant is intended not merely for the two hutting grounds but also the 140 hutting grounds for which the Government should find funds and also for the improvement of the health of the villagers. I do hope that the hon. the Minister will come forward at the time of the budget with a scheme which will really improve their condition."

* Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—" Mr. President, I was somewhat surprised at the view-point of the Opposition. I do not suggest in the least that there are not very good reasons for their opposition to this demand, but my point of view is that those feelings ought not to stand in the way of their agreeing to this grant. It is not, as Sir Patro has suggested, that there is no urgency about the matter. There is real urgency in this matter, in the sense that certain houses of the poor which have been pulled down some time back on account of certain disturbances in that particular area, have got to be replaced. The Corporation of Madras wants to take advantage of this opportunity and introduce this new experimental scheme. This matter is as urgent as it ever was before. That is why it is very necessary that this grant ought to be made. The hon. the Leader of the Justice party suggested that if he accords his support to this motion it is because he wants the Government to go the full length of giving this grant also in the matter of rural sanitation and rural improvements and public health. I am also of the same view, but that should not be our reason for withholding our support for this grant that is asked for by Government to give them a start in the right direction. That is the reason why I support this grant."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, those hon. Members who oppose this grant are trying to cut their noses to spite their faces. They forget that the City of Madras is the metropolis. Sir, the beautifying of the metropolis and keeping it in a most sanitary condition, is the duty of the whole Presidency (Voices: Oh! Oh!), and when these hon. Members are coming to Madras, the Corporation is catering to their needs. The Corporation of Madras is supplying them with good water, good accommodation, good lighting and sanitary surroundings. Wherefrom do all these things come? The Corporation is trying to prevent epidemic diseases spreading to these hon. Members (Laughter). The Corporation is also attending to the needs of the whole Government. The whole Government machinery is seated here from His Excellency the Governor down to the peons in

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

[20th January 1930]

the Secretariat and other offices, who are attending to the needs of the whole Presidency. Thus the Corporation is attending to the needs of the whole Presidency. When the Corporation is doing all these things, it is the duty of the Council to take care of the metropolis. They forget that the metropolis is their own as much as it is of the citizens of Madras. So, Mr. President, let members understand that in granting this, they are taking care of themselves. Moreover, as remarked by the hon. Leader of the Justice party, there are 142 cheris and only two of them are going to be reformed. It is better that the Government come forward to take up the reforming of all the cheris and keep the City in a healthy condition. It is the duty of the Minister for Public Health and of the Health Department to do so. Now at least, the hon. Minister has come forward to see that something is done for the Corporation.

"As to the urgency of the matter, which the hon. Sir Patro questioned, the Corporation has been struggling for this grant for a number of years. At last 8 lakhs were budgeted for last year but they were not given to the Corporation. Now the circumstances require the grant, to start work immediately.

12-45
p.m.

"As Mr. Siva Raj remarked, there are places where immediate steps should be taken to start construction. It is for this purpose we want this money immediately. (An hon. Member: 'Why do you want flushout system?') Sir, flushout system is a necessity. Now everywhere in the City we are trying to introduce flushout system. We are appealing to the residents of the City to have flushout system instead of the dry system. When the Corporation is erecting its own buildings, if it does not adopt the flushout system, then I fear it is going back on its very policy. Some hon. Members are thinking that flushout system is a luxury. Once more I have to tell them that they are under a mistaken impression. Flushout system is a necessity and not a luxury. I repeat once more that we want our poor people to live in a comfortable condition. Look at the West! Don't they see that their poor also live comfortably? Are there not poor respectables? Even so we want to give a healthy impetus to the life of our poor people. Sir, if we take care of the poor within the Corporation limits it will be setting an example to other municipalities in the mufassal to copy us. Of course, the hon. the Minister may start schemes of this sort, hereafter. Moreover he is not asking for a fresh grant, but only asks for a reappropriation from the grant that was sanctioned last year. My friend, Mr. Nagan Gowda, spoke about respiratory diseases. It is not only the respiratory diseases. These cheris if neglected form the nidus for spreading diseases. It is from there all the diseases spread throughout the whole City, not on account of the fault of the people there, but on account of ourselves keeping them in dirty condition. It is our duty to see that their condition is improved without their being taxed. If you reduce the taxes, it is the rich people that are benefited. May I inform Sir Patro that the Corporation have raised taxation by 2 per cent last year? Perhaps he is not aware of it. I finally request the Council to pass this grant without a division, for let me remind it that by passing this grant hon. Members are passing it for the benefit not only of the City but also of the whole Presidency."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, if any reason was needed to vote down this motion, that has been furnished by my friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar. He says 'the metropolis should be improved at any cost. Never mind the rural areas. Tax them as much as possible. If there is not enough

20th January 1930] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

money, make it up by stopping all rural improvements, for the rest of the province can afford to wait.' Sir, from the speech of Mr. Muniswami Nayudu one thing is very clear, and that is, that in the matter of sanitation the needs of the rural areas are even more urgent and important than those of the metropolis and I am astonished how Government can relegate the interests of the rural areas into the background and concentrate all their attention on the metropolis. Sir, it is said that the percentage of mortality in the city is very high, and that Government want to reduce it. To this end they have introduced this scheme, and they hope that this will serve as a model for other local bodies to adopt. I say Government are not earnest when they say so. For if they were earnest they should have made a list of places where the percentage of mortality was high and tried the experiment in the worst places. Sir, I know places where the death-rate is even 80 per cent, and no one will deny the fact that this sort of scheme ought to be introduced there first and foremost. Far from coming forward with a proposal of this sort for such places, the hon. Minister does not care to render reasonable aid, even when such proposals are worked out and placed before him by others knowing the utter poverty of the villages and the local bodies concerned, he calmly says 'half the money I shall give, the other half you must find for yourself.' That is the policy of Government with regard to rural areas. But when it is a question of metropolis the hon. the Minister is ready to give the whole sum required for the purpose, even 2.51 lakhs as in this case.

"Now take the case of the Penukonda Union Board, a sum of Rs. 9,250 is to be spent—for what? For making a test of the yield of water available. What is going to be done with the other part of the scheme? Nobody knows. Surely if they are not going to undertake that scheme then this money is simply thrown away. Has the hon. Minister satisfied himself that if the yield test proves successful the Union Board is in a position to satisfy his condition and carry out the scheme? No. He has not even thought about that. As I said already, these are mere hasty proposals."

* Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"Mr. President, when I look at the situation in the Council this morning, that is, the rural interests entrenched against the urban, I am reminded of the old story of the controversy between the town mouse and the country mouse. (Laughter from the Government Benches and cries of 'No, no' from the Opposition Benches.) Whenever a motion for grant of money to the Madras Corporation is made, the rural interests are reluctant to vote the sum. But I am glad that the Madras Corporation has some friends in this House, though I am afraid they are very few.

"There are two things that I wish to observe. In the first place, it is perfectly true that the finances of the Corporation are not in a satisfactory condition, and it is perfectly true that a large part of that the responsibility for that state of affairs rests on the members of the Municipal Council. Their handling of finance, judged from the experience of taxation in the City for the last two or three years is an example of financial ineptitude (laughter) that is not paralleled anywhere in the world. I hope that that reputation will soon be removed. But even by raising new taxes to-morrow the Corporation will not improve their financial condition sufficiently to be able to launch on housing schemes requiring capital expenditure.

"In the note issued in connexion with this grant I observe that this scheme is an experiment, and the note continues that Government have

[Mr. F. E. James]

[20th January 1930]

agreed to make the full grant of 2.51 lakhs for the rest of the scheme on the understanding that no grant will be admissible in respect of future schemes of such sort. I should like to ask the hon. Minister by what authority can he bind future schemes? Is he a permanent Minister of Health? If not, how can he say that any future application for grant under this particular head will be inadmissible? I take it that he will leave a note on the file of the Finance Department, and I have no doubt that they will use this as one of the arguments for refusing grants. May I entreat him to put no condition of that kind, for it is not only unconstitutional and impossible to fulfil but also it is entirely against the whole basis of the policy underlying his department. I assume the hon. Minister hopes that, by experiments of this nature, the Corporation will see their way to provide for the housing of the poor themselves. I suggest to him that the municipalities will be unable to provide finance for future experiments. And I hope when such proposals are brought the hon. the Minister will not say, "how dare you come forward with such applications when I have already said that any future application of this sort is inadmissible?"

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"Sir, I join in opposing the grant. There is no reason given whatsoever why the full grant should be borne by Government. I do not deny for a moment the urgent need for a scheme like this nor do I deny that Madras is the metropolis, of which the hon. Member for the City very forcibly reminded us, nor do I deny for a moment that we enjoy the amenities of Madras life whenever we have to go over there for attending the session of the Legislative Council; but, Sir, the question remains for consideration as to why while so many rural areas are awaiting the help of the Government in the promotion of these schemes, this premier Corporation should be given the full grant of two and a half lakhs of rupees for this purpose. I may also observe in this connexion that the Corporation, when these model houses are occupied, will be charging a nominal rent; when such is the case, I see no reason why Government should bear the whole cost of the scheme at the expense of the poor general taxpayer. Sir, it is suggested that the finances of the Corporation are not in a flourishing condition. If it is so, they have got to take steps for augmenting their resources instead of asking for money from the Government. I believe this housing scheme is a development scheme and in the case of all development schemes I fail to see why the Corporation should not raise a loan in the market, as the municipalities in the mufassal for the construction of markets. Therefore I most strongly protest against this full grant being made in favour of the premier Corporation, which can fall back on its own resources for supplying its needs."

* Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—"Mr. President, it appears that we are following a suicidal policy. For in this matter we are setting up the interests of the metropolis and the mufassal one against the other. As a matter of fact, it is late in the day when the Government have awakened to the situation; and as a result they have come forward with a measure for improving the public health. When such is the position, when the Government have realized our difficulty and come forward to fulfil their duty to a certain extent it will be unwise on our part if we say that the rural areas are equally in need of money and therefore this grant ought not to be made. I believe it is rather a case in which those who are interested in the metropolis and those who are interested in the mufassal should join hands and see that

20th January 1930]

[Mr. Daniel Thomas].

a good beginning is made. I am in entire agreement with Mr. James when he says that the Government are short-sighted and that they are pursuing a wrong policy when they say that they are treating this as a unique case, and that they shall go thus far and no further. On the other hand, I believe this ought to be the beginning of a series of grants in this direction which Government ought to make hereafter.

"In western countries the question of house accommodation is coming to 1 p.m. the front. Governments are realizing more and more, how important and how essential a position the problem of house accommodation and house scheming occupies in the life and well-being of a nation. When that is the case, I believe we ought to join together and welcome the beginning to be made by our Government. I think it will be conceded that though there may be areas in the mufassal where the conditions are bad enough, still the conditions in the cheris of Madras are worse and therefore the need is greater. I remember during the sittings of the Royal Commission on Indian Reforms one of the Commissioners remarked that to be born in Madras seemed to be a dangerous occupation. The death-rate in Madras is something which is a blot on civilization. In no nation and in no civilized city should the mortality be so great. When we admit that this is a right thing to be done, I believe we ought not to put a spoke in the progress of affairs simply because we have some criticisms to make with regard to the finances of the Corporation and because there are areas which also require the assistance of Government in the matter of housing schemes. Government have to make a beginning some time somewhere. I, representing Tinnevely, may object if Tanjore is selected. So also objection can be taken when the proposal is made with reference to any other place. I believe that it is in the fitness of things that the beginning should be made in Madras. As mentioned in the note, when people realize the advantages of the scheme not only to the people of the locality but also with reference to the general health of the City, I believe in the mufasal areas the mufassal municipalities also will come forward with similar schemes for the assistance of the Government. For these reasons I am entirely in support of the grant being made."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I rise to support the motion, Sir, and as my hon. Friend, has said it is a good beginning which has to be encouraged. Further the City of Madras is very congested and the cheris are here and there situated in the centre of the divisions and form breeding grounds for so many diseases. People coming to Madras will carry infection. It is better that the mufassalites support this because they will then have a right to ask Government when they want help for their cheris. I heartily support the grant."

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have been carefully listening to the criticisms and appreciations of the scheme by various hon. Members of the House. I quite appreciate all the points raised. If any attempt is made to set up the village people against the town-people this is not the proper occasion as the demand includes both, one a building scheme in the city and the other a water-supply scheme to a rural area. One hon. Member asked why should this Government give a full grant. Certainly hon. Members would not have made such remarks if they had read the note more carefully. There are 140 cheris in Madras and this is started in two cheris. If this is to be carried out in all the cheris, probably three crores

[Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar]

[20th January 1930]

would be required and is this two and odd lakhs a full grant? The Corporation applied. We have agreed to pay the initial cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. We have come to an understanding that they will not be entitled to make any further demand in the present conditions of finance. Certainly if the finances of the Government are flourishing and if the Corporation has no other source nobody will say no. I do not think Government can irrevocably bind themselves for the future. They can bind themselves for the present. As regards the future, they will not be justified in making demands if we are not in a position to pay. They will have no claim on the Government in future for the purpose of making this experiment.

"As regards Penukonda, the hon. Member for Bellary said that the financial condition of the union is bad and the Government have sanctioned only Rs. 9,500 for this scheme. Government are not sure that the proposed well alone will be sufficient source to give the necessary water. If the yield is good and the Government find that there will be sufficient yield, then the question of making further grants will be considered. It will be premature to make a grant when you are not sure of the source of supply itself. This grant is for making sure that the source of supply is all right. It is too premature as I said to think of any further grant at this stage.

"Sir Patro said that the Madras Corporation had reduced the taxes and therefore it had no claim on the general revenues. I do not say they are well advised in reducing the taxes. I say they should raise the taxes. It is not a question of bad budgetting when, say, that we provided 8 lakhs and there is likely to be a lapse. The Corporation had reduced taxes and we could not disburse the full loan of 8 lakhs till the taxes were raised and there was good security for the loan. We will not pay money unless we are satisfied that the finances are in a sound position. The loan was disbursed only late in the year and within a short period it will not be possible to carry out all the contemplated works. That is why there is some surplus in 8 lakhs and the full loan has not been disbursed. It is certainly not bad budgetting at all. It is good budgetting and sound administration also.

"Then, Sir, Sir Patro asked what is the urgency for the scheme in this part of the year and why not the whole scheme wait till the budget. This is the dry part of the year and if the grant is made now work will now go on more satisfactorily. If the grant is made in July, the rains would interfere. I do not think there is anything further to be said with regard to the remarks of hon. Members. I therefore move this grant."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXIV. CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES—TRANSFERRED.

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 46,200 under Grant XXIV—Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred, for the purchase of sera and vaccines for the Veterinary department."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 46,200 under Grant XXIV—Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred by Rs. 100. My object is to discuss the need for taking more effective measures to combat rinderpest. From the administration report for 1927-28 I find the mortality figures were the highest on record since 1909-10. Last year

20th January 1930]

[Mr. A. B. Shetty]

(1928-29) it has gone up by more than double this figure. It was 170,936. Out of this 129,583 were deaths due to rinderpest. This is really a serious matter. Not only have so many cattle died from rinderpest but the cattle that have suffered from this disease and survived are all temporarily incapacitated for work. Consequently cultivation suffers. Further, we must remember that the figures recorded are imperfect and they fall far short of the actual casualties. So long as this menace to cattle life continues we cannot expect private enterprise and capital to take up the work of cattle improvement. In many of the Western countries where this scourge was once very bad they have succeeded in stamping it out, while here, in spite of the attempts so far made by Government, we find that deaths from this disease go on increasing from year to year and even in the present year we find from the explanatory note in connexion with this demand that there has been an unprecedented attack of rinderpest in several districts of the Presidency in a virulent form. Government are no doubt trying in their own way to combat this disease. They have increased the number of circles, employed larger staff and they have adopted the serum simultaneous method of inoculation on a much larger scale. Still they have not been able to arrest the spread of the disease. As I said, cultivation suffers and the ryots suffer in very many ways on account of this great scourge and it is up to Government to see what further measures they can take to stamp out or at least control rinderpest. The Royal Commission on Agriculture has made certain recommendations on this matter and this House would like to know which of these recommendations have so far been given effect to by the Government. I hope Government will give their very serious attention to this matter and find out what further measures are necessary for bringing this scourge under control. If the serum simultaneous method of inoculation is to be done on a sufficiently large scale, virus and serum must be made available here. I am not sure whether the virus produced at the laboratory in the Veterinary College is enough for the purpose. The proposed serum institute has not yet been started here. It is no good getting serum all the way from Muktesar. Moreover, inoculation by itself will not suffice to combat rinderpest, as it is evident now from the experience of Mysore. Government must therefore consider what additional measures are necessary for protecting our cattle from this disease."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, there does not seem to be 1-15 any settled policy underlying the preparation and distribution of the sera. P.M. I think, Sir, the hon. Minister is perfectly well aware that the Mysore Government are now manufacturing their own sera, and, if I am not mistaken, the cost of the sera manufactured there is about one-fourth of that which the Government here are now paying for sera which they obtain from outside. Also, Sir, during my recent tours, I have come to know that the Bombay people are supplying certain medicines which are comparatively cheaper and not less effective. Perhaps, an enquiry may be made of the department working in Bellary whether they are not using some other stuff than the usual sera for rinderpest and whether the results are not equally satisfactory, if not better. So, I should think that the Government, instead of purchasing their sera at a prohibitive cost from outside the province, may as well establish an institute here and prepare their own sera, especially when they see that a considerably smaller State like Mysore has taken to it and is economizing considerably. The idea is not a new one,

[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar] [20th January 1930]

Sir. It has been there for the last two years or more and I should like to know what progress the department has made in developing that idea and carrying it out. I should also like the hon. Minister to enquire as to whether there are not other substitutes for the sera which are equally effective but less costly."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, said that the mortality of cattle during the period 1927-28 was the highest on record. I think the figures for 1929-30 will be still higher. Last year, I may assure the House, was a very bad year for the agriculturist, and I doubt whether this disease has even now been stamped out in certain portions of the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts. In the note of the Finance Committee, we read, 'a scheme should be devised by which the expenditure will be confined to those cattle which it is worth while to preserve.' Now, this sort of treatment of cattle will leave out less costly cattle in rural areas as not worth preserving. Well, cattle may be lean, may not be fat, because of the lack of sufficient fodder or proper pasture ground, but anyhow these lean cattle in rural areas are the mainstay of the agriculturists. Last year, I know in several villages, nearly all the cattle died of this rinderpest. I collected some statistics, and I find that in two revenue divisions cattle mortality mounted up to more than 1,000. I know a village where cattle perished in large numbers; a pair of such cattle costing Rs. 300 died of this disease. While such cattle perish, there is very great need for effective measures being adopted to stamp out rinderpest in rural areas. If it is thought that this serum is wasted on lean cattle on the score that they are cattle which do not deserve to be preserved, Sir, you will have literally a fulfilment of the prophesy that 'the lean cattle will devour the fat kine.' In other words, the disappearance of this lean cattle will result in famine. What is the poor agriculturist whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 to do? Is he to go in for costly cattle which will devour two-thirds, if not three-fourths, of his net income, and how is he going to preserve his cattle when this pest breaks out? It is impossible for him, because he is a poor agriculturist, to take the cattle to places where this serum is available for inoculation; nor is it possible for the department at present to go to him—I do not blame the department for not extending their activities. We require a much larger staff to cope with the situation, but I will recommend to the earnest consideration of the hon. the Minister that on occasions when this pest breaks out the department must make special provision for additional staff whose duty should be to go to different places in rural areas and see that the cattle are properly inoculated and saved in time.

"Again, Sir, we read from the note that this recommendation has been made by the Finance Committee on account of the large and increasing sums spent everywhere every year on serum. If the Government think that the cost is prohibitive, I will even tell them that agriculturists will be willing to pay the full cost of the serum and even the cost of enabling a member of the staff to go to them; for spending a sum of Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 or even Rs. 40 is much better than sustaining a loss amounting to Rs. 1,000 or 1,500. If the cattle perish, what is the agriculturist to do? How is he to go on with his agricultural operations, and how can he purchase new cattle when the price of the remaining cattle is doubled or trebled? Without cattle of some sort, he cannot continue his agricultural operations, and he is too poor to have recourse to machine-driven ploughs. Therefore, Sir, first of all, I press for

20th January 1930] [Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar]

more effective measures being adopted to put down rinderpest, and I suggest two means for relieving the department of this extra cost; the first is by recovering the cost from the owners of cattle.

"Also, my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, spoke of Bombay having found a kind of serum or medicine which is equally effective but cheaper in price. I must suggest that the Indian School of Medicine may be asked to carry on research in this direction. I know that in olden days also we had this rinderpest, and that there were certain recipes with which rural physicians were able to treat the disease. Unfortunately, those secrets have died out in the country, for people think that the disclosure of the secret will make their recipe no longer efficacious—a kind of superstitious belief. If the School of Indian Medicine will unearth all those old recipes—just as Mr. Swaminatha Ayyar, a research-worker, found all kinds of valuable information from old cadjan leaves—and find some medicines and popularize some cheap remedies for stamping out this rinderpest, I think all these millions of agriculturists who are now despondent and who do not know how they can cope with the situation and how they can avert this disease, will be very much indebted to the hon. Minister and to this House. For these reasons, I think, in the interests of the agriculturists in the rural areas, it is very necessary and very urgent that more effective measures should be adopted to stamp out rinderpest."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Mr. President, Sir, the ignorance, the apathy, and the cussedness of the Veterinary department and of our Ministers are so great that they deserve to be most severely condemned in regard to the very slow progress that has been made in introducing an effective system of treatment for this disease. As early as 1926 I drew attention, by a question, to the necessity of introducing the serum simultaneous method in this Presidency. The Minister, then, I believe, pleaded ignorance of the subject. Even in the year previous to it, that is in 1925, the Mysore Government carried out this system of inoculation within a year with success. Afterwards, in 1927, I again raised the question when new Ministers came into office and power, on a cut motion in the budget debate, and the Minister answered that he was going to introduce gradually this serum simultaneous method. The question is, Sir, why, if the Mysore Government, I believe, which is not so rich as this Government, was able to effect such improvements in this direction, this Government is still sticking to the old system of treatment? I am afraid the old system is still pursued to some extent. Why do you not make a radical change, according to the latest methods, in all parts of the Presidency? We know from the statistics that, in Trichinopoly, Bellary, Malabar and other parts rinderpest is playing havoc with our cattle and impoverishing the cultivators. But I am sorry to find that among the heads of departments, including the Veterinary department, where I see there is a motion for increasing the salary of the departmental head, there are not competent men to deal with the situation. There is so much incompetence amongst the heads. Otherwise, this system which has been introduced as early as 1925 in Mysore would have been introduced in this Presidency long ago. Then, we have got Ministers saying here that they will introduce the system gradually! But they are getting the serum from where? The serum brought down here loses its efficacy from the fact that it has to travel a very long distance and has to be kept and stored in a proper receptacle. The result is that the serum that is used is a useless one. Where is there a staff to carry on all these things?"

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

[20th January 1930]

We have got our veterinary inspectors, and when they are sent out to one place for treating cattle, rinderpest breaks out in another place, and then they run about here and there, and the department is so absurdly organized, and the establishment is so inadequate for the purpose that the people in no place get timely relief. I think they have now come to the Council with an application for grant to meet a situation in pursuance of their old policy of gradual extension. Hon. Members have already described, and I cannot describe them in stronger terms, the terrible suffering and misery that exists among our agriculturists on account of the havoc of rinderpest on their cattle. I do not know if the hon. Minister has even now realized the real need, the urgent need for more adequate measures, for a radical change in the methods of treatment, and for the necessity for employing a larger staff. I hope the Minister will not go on his tours merely for catching votes. If he studies the conditions in every village and every part of the country, he will find to what great extent this Government deserves the contempt with which it is treated by the people. Here we have thousands of people suffering from loss of cattle, and there is the Minister without any sympathy for them. These tours are meant more for having an ovation from some of his followers than for really going into the root of the conditions in the country. No wonder, therefore, nowadays there is a loud cry for independence and such other objects."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I request the hon. Member to come to the grant ? "

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" These Ministers are not doing justice in this respect especially. Here is a very important matter for safeguarding the interests of the masses. What have they done to protect the people ? They have done something in the wrong direction. They have wasted lakhs of rupees on the serum alone method. I have protested against this kind of inaction since 1926. I therefore appeal to all members of this House to join my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, in voting for this token motion, and show that we are dissatisfied with the ministerial policy in this respect especially."

The Council then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Sir, at the last budget meeting it was understood that we should do away with the protective inoculation and confine attention to the serum simultaneous process. As was pointed out, the operations of this department have not succeeded in preventing the very large mortality among cattle. While on the one hand the Minister has been giving us assurances, the department on the other hand has acknowledged the fact that no serum is available in any quantity to protect imported cattle. We have made five applications to this department to protect our cattle, and the only suggestion they have been able to make is to ask us to isolate the cattle. They have not hesitated to tell us that they have not had first-class serum for the past five months. This is a very serious thing in the case of a long-organized department such as the Madras Veterinary department. I certainly congratulate the officers of the department on the very careful and prompt attention they give; but what is the good if the department is to acknowledge that for the last five months this year they have had no serum in the Presidency to inoculate imported cattle. I want to bring this charge home to the department. I trust the Minister will give us an

20th January 1930]

[Mr. J. A. Davis]

assurance that this state of affairs will not exist in future since in the case of the imported cattle, especially in the Nilgiris thousands of rupees worth of cattle are at stake. I therefore appeal to the hon. the Minister to give us the assurance that this state of things will not continue. I understand that Government proposes to erect a building and arrange for the preparation of first class serum in Coonoor. I also trust that the Minister will assure us that this is to be the case. If this is not to be the case, all the promises made at the last budget meeting will become futile. I have brought this definite charge against the department and in the interests of imported cattle owners I appeal to the Minister to come to our rescue."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Sir, it seems very surprising that in spite of the large number of speeches made in this Council regarding the question of establishing an institute for the preparation of sera, the Government have not seen their way yet to tackle this question earnestly and do the necessary work. This is most deplorable, especially as the work is not such a difficult one and as we have the example of the State of Mysore which has adopted this system and has started an institution without any difficulty within a very short time.

" It seems that the methods adopted heretofore with regard to combating rinderpest have not been quite successful, because in parts of the Presidency where rinderpest has been treated with both serum alone method and the simultaneous method, there has been a recrudescence of the disease. That, I think, brings us to the point whether the method we are now adopting is the best one for the disease. It requires therefore a study of the disease by the institution of a research to find out new methods for combating this disease. Before the advent of the veterinary department, the disease was being treated by indigenous methods. I do not know how far the department has considered the question of finding out what methods were used before and whether they could be made suitable for the present. A suggestion was made in this House that the best method of attacking the disease would be to treat young animals just as we would vaccinate young children. If young calves three or four months old could be vaccinated with the vaccine, probably we would not have any more rinderpest at all in this Presidency. I therefore support this out of Rs .100."

* Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—" Sir, any amount of inoculation of the cattle will not stamp out the disease. The best thing is to quarantine and prevent the movements of cattle to and from an infected area. Unless this is done, any amount of inoculation will not serve the purpose. The affected cattle should be isolated and kept for some time under observation and then released."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Sir, the protection just now given by Government for stamping out rinderpest is not so successful as one would like to see in these parts. Time and again in this Council several attempts have been made to bring home to Government the necessity of bringing in a scheme whereby better serum could be obtained in this Presidency itself. As I understand, at present serum is brought from Muktesar, and on account of the long distance it has to come from, it loses its vitality and is of very little value in inoculation. As Mr. Davis just now pointed out, unless either at Coonoor or at some other suitable centre they start an institute for this purpose, I think the position will become very serious. In some parts of

[Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai] [20th January 1930]

Coimbatore, I understand that many cattle die of this disease. In rural areas and in distant parts cattle are not being properly buried with the result that the jackals which eat their carcass become mad and spread the disease, so much so that it becomes a source of great danger to human existence. Some time back I was told that the stud bull that was in the Government Gardens at Ootacamund, which was kept for the benefit of the public, was taken to Bangalore for the purpose of inoculation against rinderpest, where it died. I state this subject to correction. If the Government would not come forward and adopt a better system whereby they could get better serum and vaccine, I think the position will become very serious."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers. The Economic Enquiry Committee that was appointed by this Council to enquire into the affairs in Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari had to go into the question of cattle mortality. We had an intensive survey made on cattle mortality in two taluks of these three districts, and we found that during the last year cattle worth over Rs. 4,00,000 had been lost by disease. I would ask the Council to realize the seriousness of the situation and imagine how the agricultural population can at all get on with cattle mortality of anything like the figure I have given. Although in this Presidency there is a Cattle Diseases Act, it has never been enforced. There are obvious difficulties. When disease breaks out in one part there is nothing to prevent its spreading all over the other parts, infecting the cattle there in a very short time. In the districts I am speaking about, the practice is prevalent of sending cattle from deltaic to non-deltaic areas. These cattle carry infection all along and infect the cattle in the places where they are taken to graze.

2-45
p.m.

"The other point is that it is no use merely providing serum. We find, and I think the Royal Commission on Agriculture has also recommended, that the Veterinary establishment is totally inadequate to deal with the problem which has to be tackled. I do not see how the Government is going to find adequate remedies unless it makes up its mind at once to increase the establishment of the Veterinary department as recommended by the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

"There is also another point. We have found during our enquiries that although the cattle mortality reports are sent to the department, the department is unable to provide the requisite serum and very often no action is taken with the result that the disease once started plays havoc among the cattle. The cattle mortality figures are staggering. It shows that nothing is being done by the department to bring down the figures. I do not blame the department at all, but I say that if adequate remedies are to be provided and, if this serious state of things should be stopped, the Government must make up its mind to increase the Veterinary establishment. It is, Sir, not with a view to oppose this grant which is certainly useful, but to emphasize the need for immediate action and to emphasize the inadequacy of the operations of the Veterinary department that I rise to speak on this motion."

* The ZAMINDAR OF SINGAMPATTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I know something about this subject. As far as my knowledge goes, in the Tinnevely district alone, I have heard that about 20 to 30,000 cattle die of this disease. Sir, it is a well-known fact that cattle are the most important things for the cultivators. Therefore the Government should take the necessary steps immediately.

20th January 1930] [The Zamindar of Singampatti]

"My hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar said just now that the staff employed to combat the disease was utterly inadequate. I can testify to that from my own experience. In the Tinnevely district when cattle were attacked by this disease no help was available and they suffered very much.

"Just now my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai said that jackals would eat the diseased cattle and become mad and spread the disease. It is not surprising. The poor cultivators also become mad if they breathe the poisonous atmosphere. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that the Government should open their eyes and take the necessary steps very urgently."

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Sir, I may at the outset inform hon. Members that the Government are always willing to render such help as is possible to the ryots to bring down the high rate of cattle mortality in this Presidency. Sir, for this year we made a budget provision for serum simultaneous inoculation on the basis of the last year's expenditure, but on account of the severity of the epidemic that provision was found to be a drop in the ocean and the department was unable to drive out the disease. The Government are informed that this is a matter which does not admit of control. The history of rinderpest in this Presidency shows that the disease occurs in waves of increasing severity periodically, lasting perhaps for some years, followed by a period of some years also, of less intensity. It is hoped that the peak of the present severe wave has now been reached and that a gradual subsidence may be anticipated. All we can do is to inoculate our cattle and prevent the disease spreading further. And this we are doing.

"I am surprised to find that my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha has not, of late, been reading the reports properly. He said that we are adopting only the serum alone method, but not the serum simultaneous method. I may perhaps give him the information that almost all the cattle in our Presidency are now inoculated by the serum simultaneous method. Only in places where we have ordered compulsory inoculation under the Cattle Diseases Act, the other method is adopted. But it is very rare. I may give my hon. Friend information which goes to show that during the last several years the Government have been taking a good deal of action towards the arrest of this epidemic. In 1926-27 the number of animals inoculated by serum simultaneous method was 597 while for this year up to October the number is 88,972. I may here add that this method requires a certain amount of skill in its adoption. It is being attended to by an additional staff. We have also just now increased the number of circle officers in the Presidency as also the subordinate staff. The latter are asked to undergo the necessary training. So that all the men in the department are being trained to use this method.

"Sir, much has been said about getting the serum from the Muktesar institute. It is true that the institute is not supplying us with serum promptly. To overcome this difficulty, we have a proposal now to open a serum institute at Coonoor and when the proposal is considered in detail, if it is found to be financially sound and the serum produced could be had at a lesser cost, I would come before the House with a supplementary demand.

"With regard to research work done in the School of Indian Medicine referred to by Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, I may say that I do not know whether that school also treats animals. As far as I know they concern themselves only with human beings.

[Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar] [20th January 1930]

"My hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar spoke of the Bombay system of medicine being introduced in Bellary. I will enquire about it. I may inform hon. Members that I will forward a copy of this debate to the Director of Veterinary Surgeons for necessary action. All that we want now is more money for the expenditure on inoculation this year in order to reduce the rate of cattle mortality now existing and I request hon. Members to vote for this grant."

The cut motion was put and negatived.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXVI. CINCHONA—RESERVED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 19,050 for Cinchona—Reserved.

"The facts which necessitate the moving of this grant are, I believe, fully stated in the explanatory note which has been circulated to hon. Members. It has been decided that a new scheme of planting a pretty large area of more than 2,000 acres with cinchona in the Anamalais should be adopted and for that purpose there is of course the need for a Superintendent to reside within the locality. Provision for this purpose was made in the budget for 1928-29 and a sum of Rs. 20,000 was allotted; but, as there was delay in the formal sanction of the plans and estimates, only a small sum, namely, Rs. 1,950 could be spent in that year. At the time the budget for the next year, that is for 1929-30, was prepared, it was not anticipated that there would be this delay in the administrative sanction for the plans and estimates and it was not thought that it would not be possible to spend the whole of this amount (Rs. 20,000) in that year, 1928-29 itself. Now in the current year the building is being constructed and it is necessary to complete it. The balance that could not be spent in 1928-29 was surrendered to Government. I am moving that this amount which is now necessary, namely, Rs. 19,050 be granted to the Government for completing this building."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"Mr. President, Sir, I oppose this grant. I do so on the principle that hereafter the Government should give up the policy of providing residences for their well-paid officials. The idea that the Government servants ought to be given houses, and that they ought not to have even the difficulty of finding houses for themselves just like other people is something which is entirely bureaucratic. It is indeed aristocratic. It is on that principle that I oppose this grant. In doing so I will also state that not only this scheme but the other schemes also for supplying houses for Government employees should be given up hereafter.

3 p.m. "I will also state that the custom hitherto followed of making rent allowances to Government servants should also be given up. It is becoming a rather a difficult thing for the Government . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not understand how the question of rent allowance is relevant to this demand."

20th January 1930]

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—“ I notice in the explanatory note that a sum of Rs. 50 was allowed as rent allowance simply because there was not a residence for this officer . . . ”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That question cannot be discussed now.”

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—“ I bow to your ruling, Sir.

“ Sir, if we are to follow this method of supplying residences to officers and other Government servants, then the Government also might pay allowances for the school fees of their children, for their dress and things of that sort. When once these officers are paid their salaries they should take care of themselves. On that principle I oppose this grant.”

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, I will not go so far as my hon. Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda and refuse house accommodation under all circumstances and to all Government servants. So far as this particular item is concerned, there has been a serious neglect on the part of the Government somewhere and I would like the hon. the Law Member to find out where the responsibility lies for this neglect. I wish that he should give us some information as to whether the proposal was given up at any time and if so why it is now newly brought before this House. This proposal was sanctioned in the budget for the year 1928-29 and the building was not finished by the end of 1929. Surely the Government were in a position to know that they were not able to make any progress in the construction of this building and that the balance of money which was surrendered at the end of 1928-29 was necessary if the construction had to be proceeded with. If that was so, I should like to know why the Government did not come up before this Council much earlier than January 1930, and what they were doing all these ten months. Did they want at all to proceed with this building? Presumably they did not want to do so. Then I ask, why then this sudden earnestness to finish the construction of this building within this year?

“ There are still one or two points on which I should like to have some information before I vote on this grant. This building is intended to be a permanent residence for the Superintendent. I want to know whether that appointment is permanent. I understand that the present appointment is only for four years and the period for which this gentleman was engaged has partly expired. Is he going to be reappointed or are the Government going to appoint another in his place? If they appoint another, are they going to pay him the same salary as they are paying the present incumbent? These are all questions on which the House ought to be taken into confidence so that it may record its considered vote one way or the other. The Government were granting a rent allowance of Rs. 50 which means that it is interest on the capital value of Rs. 10,000. I ask why they should now spend Rs. 20,000. If they do so it should entitle the Government to recover a rent of Rs. 80 or Rs. 100 for this building from the salary of the Superintendent. So far as this particular officer is concerned his pay is Rs. 1,000 and 10 per cent of that would give you Rs. 100 as rent. But the difficulty is whether his successors will be paid the same salary or not. If the salary be less the Government may not be entitled to claim that amount of money which is equivalent to the interest on the capital invested. I hope this aspect of the matter will be borne in mind by the hon. the Law Member. These are all points on which information has not been furnished to us and all these things are necessary before we record our vote one way or the other.”

[20th January 1930]

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“ I rise to support this grant. The position taken up by my hon. Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda is hardly justifiable. Perhaps he does not understand the conditions existing in places like Anamalais. The Anamalais is not a city or a town where you could find plenty of buildings that could be rented for residences of these officers. Even an ordinary planter who owns 100 or 200 acres of plantations provides a comfortable residence for his Superintendent. While the Government have gone so far as to clear land to the extent of 2,000 acres and wish to plant them with cinchona, it is up to the Government and this Council to make provision for accommodation of these officers, who are in charge of such plantations.”

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—“ Where is he living now ? ”

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“ He may be living in a temporary hut now. That is no reason why we should not provide him with better accommodation. I think the demand is most reasonable and we should support it.”

* Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON :—“ Before I record my vote on this grant, I wish to know where this building is going to be located. If, as a matter of fact, it is going to be located in the centre of the estate or somewhere near the estate, it may be said that this demand of the Government is a legitimate demand. If as I understand, as in the case of other officers, the building is going to be located at a great distance from the sphere of work certainly this grant cannot be allowed. I want that information from the hon. the Law Member.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ My Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda raised the general question relating to the practice of supplying quarters to Government servants. I do not think it is necessary for me to reply to that point now. I think it is thoroughly irrelevant for the purpose of this debate.

“ With reference to this particular building, even my hon. Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda, as has been pointed out by my Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai, must admit that in a howling wilderness like the Anamalais, where cinchona plantations are made, people must live, not in the shade of trees, but in some buildings. It is but fair, equitable, and natural that these persons who are obliged to live in these wildernesses should be provided with suitable buildings and it is part of the contract under which the services of the present Superintendent has been engaged that he should be provided with free quarters.

“ Then my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar stated that the services of the present Superintendent are about to expire, because he was engaged only for four years and these four years have expired. No doubt it is true that his term of service has expired, but whether the Government re-engage him or appoint a new man in his stead, the argument that the Superintendent must have a building must hold good always. With reference to the other point viz., delay, raised by my hon. Friend, I have already answered that it was thought in 1928-29 that it would be possible to spend the whole of the amount before the end of that year. But it was not possible on account of the delay in sanctioning the plans and the estimates to complete the building before the end of that year. It is now necessary to complete the building

20th January 1930] [Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

this year and in this year's budget provision has not been made. Therefore, I have come before the House for this grant.

"With reference to the point, raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Raman Menon, I may tell him that the building is located in the Anamalais, but I am unable to say whether it is going to be located on the borders or in the centre of the plantations. But I may say this much that it is being located within the plantations."

(A voice :—"In a place where it can be used as a summer resort?")

"I do not think it is necessary to note and answer such a suggestion."

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXVII. INDUSTRIES—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 5,87,136 under Grant No. XXVII—Industries—Transferred.

"Sir, this provides for a grant towards the establishment of a school for the blind at Madras and also to write off the irrecoverable portion of the loans granted to the Carnatic Paper Mills, Limited."

* Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to item (1) of the Demand, I am in entire sympathy with the object underlying it. But there is one thing which is troubling me in connexion with this item. I find at page 14 of the explanatory note this passage :—"Although the claims of the vernacular as a natural and possible medium of instruction of the blind are obvious, the more practicable alternative is to make English the medium for children from all language areas, in view of the fact that there is a Braille Library in existence for that language". I am of opinion that there will be a good deal of trouble in the working of the institution if we want to give effect to this recommendation. I believe, though there may be exceptions, that children who are defective in sight or hearing are generally below normal in intelligence or general capacity. It is not desirable, therefore that they should be taken out of their natural surroundings and be given education through the medium of English and then put in factories for the purpose of learning technical crafts and industries. I know, as a matter of fact, that it is possible and practicable to teach these children not only in English but also in their own languages. For instance, in Palamcottah, we have a school for the blind in which children are taught in their own Tamil language. Similarly, I think it should be possible to carry out this system of teaching these children according to the language area from which they come. I think it is the only desirable and the only satisfactory course of training these children to take their proper and legitimate place among the industrial workers of this Presidency. I believe this explanatory note itself realizes the importance of training these children in their own vernaculars. I believe that for the students to be given a proper training in certain avocations, education in English would not be so useful as education in their own native languages. Of course in certain special cases where the students exhibit more than average intelligence such students may be taken to higher education in English. But, for the ordinary mass, for the generality of students, I think

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

[20th January 1930]

education in their own native languages will be more useful and more practicable and will help them more to attain proper proficiency in the various arts or industries in which they may be trained. I would entreat the hon. Minister to consider these points when the grant is given."

3-15 P.M. * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that 'the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 5,87,136 under Grant XXVII—Industries—Transferred."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The hon. Minister has not replied to the points raised by my hon. Friend."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member wish to speak?"

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I want to urge the same points raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Thomas and wish to hear the reply of the hon. Minister."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Even a Minister should catch the eye of the President."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXX. CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant XXX—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Transferred. The first item provides for a token demand for the construction of over-bridges over the South Indian Railway line at the Whannel's Road, the St. Mary's Road and the General Hospital Road. As will be seen from the explanatory note, the Corporation has not been able to find the money necessary for the construction of these over-bridges and with the electrification of the South Indian Railway when there will be frequent trains running it is necessary that these over-bridges should be constructed as soon as possible. The second item is for the grant to the South Kanara District Board for the repair of the Mangalore-Mysore Road which is in urgent need of repair; the District Board applied several times for a grant for this purpose; but it was not possible to give this grant. The third item is for repairing damages to roads in the South Kanara district on account of floods."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 300 under Grant XXX—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Transferred by Re. 1. The object of my amendment is to urge the necessity for Government taking over the Mangalore-Mysore Road and placing it in charge of the Public Works Department. The amount asked for now is only for the purpose of urgent and special repairs to this road. This road is the most important ghat road in South Kanara and it has very heavy traffic. For a long number of years the District Board of South Kanara as well as the public there have been agitating for the improvement of this road and as the result of this agitation this road was classed as a trunk road in April 1928. The District Board has been spending from Rs. 730 to Rs. 1,128 every year for the improvement of this road. But the improvement stops at the foot of the ghat portion of it. The ghat portion is in a deplorably bad condition; and

20th January 1930]

[Mr. A. B. Shetty]

communications are cut off during monsoon time. It is quite necessary that, in view of the importance of this road, it should be made serviceable all the year round. An estimate for a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 for this work has been submitted to the Government through the Superintending Engineer. I believe the Engineer also is convinced of the need for putting this road in a thoroughly good condition and he has approved the estimate. The hon. Minister himself, when he visited South Kanara in November 1928, inspected this road; he must have also been convinced about the present unsatisfactory condition of this road. The ghat roads in South Kanara are the most neglected roads in southern India. In our neighbouring district of Malabar there are said to be three or four imperial roads in charge of the Public Works Department and several trunk roads. In South Kanara there is not a single road which is maintained by the Public Works Department. The estimated sum of Rs. 1,10,000 is necessary for putting this road in a thoroughly good condition. A sum of Rs. 15,000 and odd is now proposed to be given. Government must either take over this road or at least sanction the required sum for a thorough overhauling of this road. I trust that the hon. Minister will give his best attention to this matter and see that the required amount is included in the coming budget if it is not at present possible to class this road as an imperial road."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, the tale of woe in connexion with this road has been heard in this House again and again from the year 1924, when I raised the cry on behalf of the people of that district. After five years of our cry, the Government have been pleased to convert this road into a trunk road. We are thankful for small mercies; but it is only the barest justice that has been done to us. It is no use handing over this long neglected road to the District Board as a trunk road without providing necessary money for overhauling it completely; it requires a very large sum of money. In the year 1926 or so, the District Board President pointed out that at least a sum of Rs. 60,000 or three-fourths of a lakh would be necessary for overhauling this road. Two years ago they pointed out that about Rs. 50,000 was necessary for this purpose. The District Board Engineer after a very careful investigation has now prepared an estimate for Rs. 1,10,000 and I hear that the estimates were sent to the Superintending Engineer; they are sticking in his or in the Executive Engineer's office. I am assured that they have not reached the Government with the approval of the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Engineer. I sent a telegram from Mangalore enquiring whether they have reached the Chief Engineer's office and the reply is that the estimates have not reached that office. I am surprised to find that the estimates are sticking somewhere on the way and have not reached the Government. I think the Government ought to expedite the submission of these estimates. Meanwhile the District Board unanimously passed a resolution about six months ago to the effect that the Government should take over the maintenance of this road because a first-class Engineer is required to see how this road can be maintained and made fit for traffic with ample funds. I may point out that this road is the most important road and has the heaviest traffic on the West Coast. Last year Government were pleased to convert two roads in Malabar into imperial roads and have placed them in charge of the Public Works Department; they went so far as to convert a second-class road in Coimbatore into an imperial road and take over its maintenance. In Malabar there are four imperial roads maintained by the Public Works Department and in

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

[20th January 1930]

Coimbatore there are two or three such roads, whereas in South Kanara there is none. There was only one good road and that was to Mercara. The Mangalore-Mysore road has recently been converted into a trunk road without the necessary allotment for overhauling it. Our request is that the Government should take over the management of the road as they have done in Malabar, or they should pay a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 for overhauling it. My hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, has pointed out that the hon. Minister is convinced of the unsatisfactory condition of the road. Sometimes a road is maintained at an enormous cost for the benefit of one person in the Presidency, i.e., the Governor. You will see what a number of poor people suffer on account of the bad condition of the road between Mangalore and Mysore; this road is an important postal road; our mails from Bombay and other places take several days to reach us. If this road is converted into a first-class imperial road, mails would reach us much earlier. Owing to the present unsatisfactory condition of the road, the Postal Department are not willing to hand over their mails to any bus service. The result is our postal communication from and to the Bombay Presidency is of the very poorest kind; passenger traffic also between Mangalore and Bombay is in the same condition. For these reasons I would join my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, in urging that the Government should take over this road as an imperial road as they have done in Malabar and Coimbatore or give the District Board necessary money for overhauling it. It was a matter of surprise to me that the Government should have readily provincialized some roads in Malabar and Coimbatore; they are treating South Kanara in a stepmotherly fashion. I have been trying to find out whether there is any justification for this differential treatment. Perhaps the reason is that the planters and the people in South Kanara that will be benefited by this road are mostly Indians; very few Europeans are affected; but in Malabar and Coimbatore a large number of Europeans are affected. Because the interests of a large percentage of the European population are at stake in Malabar and Coimbatore, the Government have very readily yielded to the demand of the big folk and converted many roads into imperial roads in those districts. But we, poor people, Indians, can be treated in a stepmotherly fashion. In spite of our cry for so many years the Government have been niggardly in their treatment of us. Am I not right therefore in attributing unfair motives in their treatment of our district? I hope that the Government in any case will not give any room for our suspicion and that our suspicion is ill-founded. I hope the Government will take this matter into consideration at once and see that the estimates are sent expeditiously by the Public Works Department where they are sticking and that an additional grant is asked for this year.

8-30
p.m.

"There should be no necessity for us to set up a cry year after year. Although the matter has been pending for a long time, I am sorry that very little has been done to meet the prayers of the people of the district. Representations have been made to His Excellency the Governor and also to the Minister, and I do not know how much money has been spent in the preparation of such representations. All of them have been of no avail, but let us hope that the Government will do the barest justice in this respect, and that as early as possible."

* Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"Mr. President, Sir, I should like, on behalf of my constituency, to associate myself with the remarks of Mr. Saldanha, though I must differ very strongly from him in respect of the remarks made by him in

20th January 1930]

[Mr. F. E. James]

the latter portion of his speech. When he is anxious to get concessions from the Government, I think it is very unwise of him to impute motives to them. I should like, on the other hand, to thank the Government for the help they are proposing to give by means of this grant. This road, the ghat section especially, is terribly bad from the point of view of the coffee merchants and planters in the surrounding country. It has not been possible to transport coffee in normal quantities during the crop season in the lorries to which we are accustomed, and we have to send it down in smaller carts, with the result that it works great hardship on the industry. I believe the hon. the Minister has traversed that particular section of the road, and I am quite sure that he will realize the absolute necessity of doing something in regard to the proper maintenance of that road. I believe, Sir, that the proper season for repairing this road or any other road in that part of the country is between June and September. Although I do not know whether I am, thoroughly in order in mentioning it on this particular motion, I would like to urge upon the hon. Member the necessity for supplementing this grant by a further grant next year. This amount that is being voted now will do something, but very little, and certainly will not do very much to repair the road to the extent which it actually requires.

"In the second place, Sir, I would also ask the hon. the Minister to consider, in addition to the question of a subsidy, the question of taking over the roads. Even if it is impossible for the Government to take over these roads fully, I think there is a very strong case for their taking over at least the ghat section, as Government have done in the case of other ghat roads. The South Kanara District Board have, I think, been dealing with this matter sympathetically, and our thanks are also due to the President of the District Board for the assistance which he has given in regard to this matter. But the fact of the matter is that the resources of the District Board are altogether too small to bear the burden which a road of this description requires in that locality. I would therefore request the hon. the Minister most seriously to consider first the question of taking over the whole road, and secondly, if that is not possible, the question of taking over at least the ghat section of the road. That will certainly give a great deal of relief. Mr. Saldanha has said that the road in question has great commercial importance in regard to the heavy transport of goods and articles; I entirely agree with him there."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I should like to confine myself to only one item of the demand, namely, the first."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Then the hon. Member will have to wait. Let us first dispose of the amendment of Mr. Shetty."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, I know that this particular road is badly in need of repair, and that is the reason why we have provided for this sum, so that the repairs could be urgently carried out. Mr. James suggested that it will not be possible to have this road repaired fully with the amount now proposed to be given. I know the coffee planters are put to great difficulty especially in bringing down their produce because of the bad condition of the road; but I can assure them that a further provision is being made in the budget for the next year for repairing this particular road; in fact—I believe a substantial sum is going into the budget for repairing this road. But I am afraid I cannot give any undertaking to make this an imperial road at present, because the Public Works Department

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

[20th January 1930]

already have their hands full with regard to imperial roads both in Malabar and Coimbatore. I can assure Mr. Saldanha that this is not done on a racial basis. We are merely allotting the necessary amounts for being spent on these roads. As Mr. James pointed out, if he really wants the sympathy of the Government, I hope he will not introduce questionable matters as he did in the remarks he made. The question, however, of making it an imperial road will be considered with regard to the proposals of the Road Development Committee when they are taken into consideration."

* Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, may I also raise my voice in support of this amendment! I do so on the ground that all those who know the roads in South Kanara are unanimous in this demand that these roads should be taken over by the Public Works Department. South Kanara has got a legitimate grievance against the Government in the matter of grants for roads."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"This is only a supplementary grant with regard to the Mangalore-Mysore trunk road. The hon. Member will not be justified in passing remarks on the adequacy or otherwise of the grant for all the roads."

* Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—"I shall confine my remarks to that, Sir. This has been the subject of several representations and addresses, and the hon. Minister himself was taken over the road and shown all the difficulties of the planters and others who were using it. All the good roads and frontier roads should be taken over, I think, by the Public Works Department. As this is both a frontier road and a ghat road, it is all the more necessary that it should be taken over by the Public Works Department. According to the ordinary traits of human nature, one would have expected the Minister to be partial to this district. On the other hand, we find that he is not even doing what is necessary with regard to this district. I support this motion of Mr. Shetty with a view to bring to notice of the Government the necessity of this road being taken over by the Public Works Department."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Minister, I do not propose to press my amendment."

The amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, any one who is accustomed to Madras and the frequent holding up of traffic at the level-crossings cannot but sympathise with the motion now before the House. But, as my friend pointed out, this is not a question purely local in its character. The money that is provided here is, I think, on a far too liberal scale. You will see from the note that the railway authorities at first would not give even a third of the total cost; but a little higgling and some delay made them climb down a little bit and agree to defray more than half the cost. I do not know, Sir, whether the bargain that has been arrived at is fair altogether to the Government or the people whom they represent. The railway authorities, when they have opened the railways in crowded parts of the city, surely should provide reasonable facilities for the diversion of traffic and make arrangements to make the inconvenience to the people as small as possible. It is not uncommon that people are held up, not for five or ten minutes, but for a long time at the level-crossings, and surely the railway authorities cannot claim

20th January 1930] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

absolution from the responsibility for the inconvenience they are causing to the people.

"Then, Sir, is there not an obligation on the part of the Corporation of the local body concerned, partly to meet the cost? I think there is: but in this case, the Government are prepared to pay the whole amount themselves. If you just turn over two pages more of the note, Sir, you will find almost a similar case where the Government propose to give only half the cost, while the municipality is asked to pay the other half. Now, Sir, what is the principle underlying these grants? Is it a question of the influence of the people who clamour for more and more and get what they want while hundreds of other people living in less fortunate circumstances are refused any help? I know it is comparatively easy for the Madras Corporation to get anything it wants out of the Government, but the rural people, the country mouse as Mr. James referred to them—those people find it very difficult to get even their irreducible wants attended to by the Government. I would, therefore, like to know what was the reason that persuaded the Government to agree to this. The note says that 'the Government had occasion recently to examine the financial position of the Madras Corporation and are convinced of the inability of the Corporation to contribute its share of the cost. . . .'. Surely the Government do not say that they have been acting on this rule in the case of other bodies. The Government say that they have got the Corporation to agree to something. What is it they have got out of the Corporation? It puts me in mind of a story where a man who had good nourishing grain and another who had worthless husk entered into a bargain. The man with the worthless husk said: 'Well, you and I shall be partners, both of us will mix together our grain and chaff and after winnowing the chaff, we shall share what is left between us'. It seems to me this is something like that. That the municipality claims no rights over the bridge is meaningless. What is the Government going to do with the bridge except to allow it to be made use of by all who cared to do so? I think the Government have not realized their responsibility to the public in defraying a share of the cost themselves."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, it is very clear that somehow or other, this Corporation is treated as a pet child of the Government. How they got into the good grace of the Government is rather a different thing: but this much is very clear that the Government pay for projects, the comforts of which are enjoyed by others. It goes to the very root of the question, namely, whether the municipal affairs are properly administered or not. We, in the mufassal, may say plainly from what we read in the papers—we are not of course in a position to know what is happening within the walls of the municipality—that there is not much to be said in its favour. And the way in which we see the Corporation coming up to the Government with demands, the one we have seen and the other that is going to come, shows that there is something wrong there. Why is it that they are allowed to go scot-free? The observations made in the note on page 24, paragraph 5, let the cat out of the bag—

'The Government had occasion recently to examine the financial position of the Madras Corporation and are convinced of the inability of the Corporation to contribute its share of the cost of these overbridges unless the Government gave it a grant-in-aid for the purpose.'

"Apparently, it has been tacitly assumed that the Municipal Corporation cannot give a good account of itself. They have probably found that the affairs of the municipality are not properly managed. Then, why not treat

[Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar] [20th January 1930]

it in the same way as the taluk board of Vizianagram or Vizagapatam or some other local board? Why not? The Minister can then show that he can lay the rod equally forcibly on the back of all these municipalities. As a matter of fact, he knows what is being done every day in the Municipal Corporation. Many things are being done there on which the Minister cannot congratulate the Corporation. Having had occasion to note these things, the Minister has also gone into the financial position of the Corporation.

3-45
p.m.

"Well, how was the Minister convinced of the inability of the Corporation to contribute its share and what occasion arose for the hon. Minister to examine the financial position of the Corporation? Apparently something drew his attention and having had his attention drawn to it, why did he not ask the Corporation to contribute? On the other point, we have had occasion here to know about the administration of the Madras Corporation. There is his contribution which shows that the Corporation is not properly administered as it ought to be. So, why should the Government help the municipality and say that they would grant such a large amount? They somehow or other climb down and why do they climb down so easily when there was a haggling? That is a point which the Minister, taking the House into his confidence, should let us know; why he was so kind to the Corporation of Madras and to the South Indian Railway Company. When the South Indian Railway Company take it into their heads to construct railway lines and also open electric railway service, it is their duty to see that the passengers are not inconvenienced and when such is the case, how is it that the hon. the Minister has thought it fit to oblige the Municipal Corporation as well as the South Indian Railway? This is a matter that ought to be left as between the Company and the Corporation of Madras to manage between themselves. If these two bodies could not manage their affairs, why should Government come in and grant such large sums of money? We know very well that the state of affairs of the Corporation is not as it ought to be. The state of the roads in the municipality during the rainy season and the state of the by-lanes in the municipality, the way in which they allow them to be used as public latrines, and the high rate of infant mortality, all these things show that the municipal affairs are not properly administered and if they are not properly administered, it is for the Minister to come down upon them and not ask this House to vote for such a large amount as this; I therefore put it to the House that the hon. Minister owes several words of explanation to the House for his kindness to the Corporation and for his coming to us successively for grants under two heads of expenditure. Probably he thinks that the House is thin and that therefore a majority of votes can be easily obtained for passing this grant. Such things show that there is a lack of confidence in the way in which municipal affairs are administered. I therefore strongly protest against this grant being made."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, as will be seen from the Explanatory Memorandum itself, it is not the South Indian Railway, but the Railway Board of the Imperial Government that has made this allocation of cost of the three overbridges that should be built. They are to be found at page 23 of the Explanatory Memorandum and their decision was that the railway should bear the cost of the bridge structure; the road authority should bear the cost of the approaches as well as all land required for the approaches outside railway limits; and that the cost of diversion of all

20th January 1930]

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

sewers, cables, gas and water mains within railway limits should be borne by the railway and outside railway limits by the road authority. Calculating on this basis, it will be seen that the sum that the Madras Corporation has to pay towards the overbridges comes to 8.45 lakhs as against the share of the railway which comes to 3.85 lakhs. And after repeated correspondence with the Government of India and several meetings with the Agent of the South Indian Railway, the Railway Board agreed that it would be prepared to let the railway pay 6.66 lakhs and that the Corporation should find its own share of 5.64 lakhs. This was the best bargain that we could drive with the Government of India. I can assure hon. members opposite that we had to find out a way in which the sum of 5.64 lakhs could be found for the construction of these bridges. I am glad to see that hon. members opposite admit that these overbridges are very necessary in Madras, because anybody going through these roads will know the congestion of traffic, especially during business hours and how they have to wait a long time before it is cleared. This congestion will become worse still when the new electrification of the South Indian Railway takes place and the traffic is made more frequent than is the case at present. Under the electrification scheme, we shall have trains every five minutes and you can easily understand how traffic would become congested in the areas mentioned. So, it is urgent that money should be found for the construction of these overbridges. It was found that after examining the budget of the Corporation, the Corporation were not in a position even to take a loan and fulfil their obligations, because their obligations are already many (Mr. Ramnath Goenka: Why?) and they are unable to meet even their necessary expenditure. As my hon. Colleague said this morning, the Corporation have already raised their property tax to a certain extent. I suppose they will raise it still further if they find the necessary obligations which they owe to the city are not fulfilled with their present finances.

“But, this question of overbridges is not merely for the Corporation alone, it is a question for the whole Presidency, because traffic arrangements for people who come into the town have to be made. This is after all the capital city of the province, which I am afraid people forget when they try to put rural as against urban area. I have every sympathy for people coming from rural areas and we should spend as much as possible on the rural population. I am sure, hon. members will admit that steps have been taken in that direction, especially during the last ten years, but with all that, we have also to think of the city, because it is the capital of the province and the seat of the provincial administration. I therefore hope that hon. members will not be carried away by the cry of the city against rural areas and I am sure they will recognize the necessity for these overbridges and will not object to this grant being passed.”

MR. RAMNATH GOENKA :—“Mr. President, I should like to oppose this grant only for one reason and that is the Government's encouraging the Madras Corporation by taking over the liability of that body in the manner in which the hon. Minister proposes to do. The Madras Corporation is a body which is well known to all of us, as a body which cannot adjust its own finances, which goes into chimera at the time of raising the property tax as its members are afraid of being defeated at the elections. In one word, may I say that the present working of the Corporation is not at all satisfactory and that the Government are simply helping them by taking over the liability of the Corporation to the extent of 5.64 lakhs in the present case and in

[Mr. Ramnath Goenka]

[20th January 1930]

the cases which were decided this morning. Sir, if the Corporation had been properly managed, the Madras Government would not have any need for taking over its liability. They should have suppressed it if it has not been properly managed. But, none of the two alternatives are forthcoming and the Government are simply encouraging the Corporation to go on in the fashion in which it is going on by not caring for the civic welfare of the people of the city. They are merely quarrelling for the hoisting of the National Flag over the Corporation buildings, or the presentation of address to the Simon Commission, with which, may I say, they have no business at all. Their business, as I understand it, is purely to look after the civic welfare of the people of the city. Instead of doing this, they are going into politics setting the Swarajists against the Justicites and the Justicites against the Swarajists, Simon Commission address against Gandhi address and so on. Sir, if the Government take over the responsibility of the Corporation, the Madras Corporation will go on from bad to worse and from worse to worst. In such cases, it should be the duty of the Government to leave the entire responsibility in the hands of the Corporation. And, whenever the citizens of Madras find that the traffic is congested at these level-crossings, then they will ask their representatives in the Corporation : "What are you doing, we have to wait for half an hour before we can pass the crossing?" It is only then, Sir, that the members of the Corporation will wake up and look to the duty for which they are sent to the Corporation. May I say that in Sowcarpet, the road which is the most congested one, no repair has been done for the last two years and when all the rate-payers of the locality sent in a petition to the Commissioner, he replied that orders had been passed. Though it is now one year since the order had been passed to reconstruct the road, nothing has yet been done, not even a bit of repair has been done . . .

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am not able to understand how that reference is relevant to this debate."

Mr. RAMNATH GOENKA :—"What I wanted to show was that the Madras Corporation is not working satisfactorily and so the Government ought not to take over the liability of the Corporation. If the Corporation is not functioning properly, the Government ought not to encourage it by doing so. That is an important point. I may also add, that not only the roads, but the by-lanes in the Madras City are being used as latrines and urinals and none of the Members of the Corporation . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I request the hon. Member to take another opportunity to expose the Madras Corporation."

Mr. RAMNATH GOENKA :—"With these words, I will resume my seat and I only request the hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio not to encourage the Corporation by giving this grant, but to say to the Corporation that the Government will not allow the grant unless the Corporation functions properly."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I would not have risen to speak on this subject, but for the novel principle which the hon. the Chief Minister has laid down to-day that because we people come from the mufussal and make use of these roads and bridges, the mufussal people should contribute to the building of these bridges and not the Corporation. Now, Sir, the principle that is carried out, as a rule, in the rest of India is that the Corporations, the Railways and the Government should pay in certain proportions their quota for

20th January 1930]

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

the construction of these bridges and their maintenance. What is done here is, that the Government, in addition to their own liability, take over the liabilities of the Corporation. It condones the neglect of the Corporation to do its duty to the people of the town. The people coming from the mufassal have to pay for the railway fare for the use of the trains; we pay for the use of the houses we occupy and the people of the town taking advantage of the guests and visitors from the mufassal into the City, tax us heavily in hotels and in restaurants because of our stay here . . .

"Thus indirectly we pay to the municipality in several ways. In addition ^{4 p.m.} to all these there is the Government grant as a third partner. But Government are going to take over the liability of the Corporation in addition to their own liability. Hence I say that this is unfair to the mufassal. As I said before if this principle is to be followed Government will have to take over much of the liability of the Corporation at the expense of the poor mufassal tax-payer. Therefore I oppose this motion with a view that this sort of precedent should not be set up. I only wish that the Corporation of Madras should act in the way other Corporations in India act. In Bombay the Corporation pays a large sum for the construction of railway bridges, the railways pay a quota and the Government also pay a portion. I cannot understand why this principle shall not be adopted here, in Madras. I think this is the first time when there is a deviation from this principle of contribution. Am I to understand that the Corporation has become insolvent? If so, bring it before the Insolvency Court and there declare it an insolvent. That is the only proper way of doing the business. Finally I am not going to repeat what has been said already by those who spoke before me, but I will finish my speech by saying that it is high time for us to put a stop to the practice of sacrificing the interests of the public. Therefore I oppose this motion altogether."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant XXX—Civil Works—Grant-in-Aid—Transferred."

The demand was carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXXI. CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant XXXI—Civil Works—Transferred. This provides for token demands for (a) erection of an additional power plant for the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, Rs. 100; (b) painting the main building of the General Hospital, Madras, with paripan paint Rs. 100; (c) widening of the General Hospital bridge, Madras, Rs. 100."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I beg to second the motion."

The demand was carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXXII. PENSIONS—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 under Grant XXXII—Pensions—Reserved. This is intended for additional expenditure on the payment of

[Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell]

[20th January 1930]

compassionate gratuities to dependants of deceased Government servants left in indigent circumstances. It is somewhat difficult to foresee in the beginning of the year the exact amount which will be required under this account during the year. The demands this year are in considerable excess we received of those made of the proceeding four or five years and therefore we require a larger sum this year. I hope the grant will receive the approval of the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Mrs. S. Muthulakshmi Reddi has given notice of a motion to discuss the need for providing the widows of the deceased Government servants with a decent pension. I cannot understand how it is relevant to this supplementary demand. It raises the general question of providing pensions to widows of Government servants and I think it is better that she takes the opportunity of the general budget to have her proposition discussed."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Sir, I rise to oppose this grant. In doing so I want the hon. the Revenue Member to throw some light on one or two points. It is whether the grants that have been made so far are mostly to the dependants of deceased Government servants holding high positions, whether hitherto it was paid mostly to the widows of Europeans and Anglo-Indians who have been in the services of the Government; and whether Government have placed any maximum limit to the salary of servants whose dependants only will be entitled to these allowances. Without a satisfactory answer to these queries I cannot give my vote to this grant."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, this is one of those grants which will meet with the universal approval of this House if the details of the motion are explained to the House. The compensation is granted to the widows and families of Government servants, when a clerk or a subordinate or other official of Government is not able to earn his pension, owing to his official career being cut short, by untimely death, and as a result of which, his widow is left without any help or sustenance. There is a committee of Government to discuss the pros and cons of applications in this behalf and if they are satisfied, the case is recommended for compensation. There are rules regulating the grant of compensation. If there is no other source of income and the service was efficient, they scrutinize the applications and if they are satisfied that the cases require compensation or allowance, Government grant it."

"Then this is not a case confined to European or Anglo-Indian families. The help is extended to all servants of the Government. Applications are received from departments in which the deceased had his service and are duly recommended by the Secretary of the department; when there are deserving cases, either an year's allowance or two years' allowance is recommended. Therefore it is very necessary that such a provision should be made in the service rules."

"Then again the amount is also determined on certain sound principles. If the widow of the officer or his family has any other source of sustenance then the compensation is proportionately reduced. Thus it is not a case where arbitrary allowance is granted but a case where the whole matter is considered in all its aspects and then the compensation is settled. For these reasons I support the motion."

20th January 1930]

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ Sir, I think the criticisms of Mr. Nagan Gowda were based on want of knowledge of the rules governing compassionate allowances. These rules have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Among the more important rules are, a provision that in granting gratuities to the family of Government servants who have completed several years of service and have died before being eligible for pension, special consideration should be paid to those cases in which the deceased has been in receipt of a low salary. Then again no grant can be made if the salary of the deceased exceeds Rs. 750 a month, or where the deceased was a gazetted officer except, in either case to provide the family of the deceased with passages to England. I realize that this last provision is applicable to Europeans, but such cases will be very few in number. The average grant during the current year is Rs. 146; this indicates gratuities have only been granted in the case of the families of deceased officers of low pay. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Public Health, tells me that in the last two years no European has received assistance from this fund. I am sure this motion will receive the general support of the House.”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, I would like to make a few remarks on this motion. I should have made them before the hon. the Revenue Member replied, for if I had done so I would have got the reply of the hon. Member. I rather perceive that the rules are not liberal enough. It is notorious that there are many cases where people have practically earned no pension.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ If the hon. Member wanted to criticize he could have given a cut motion.”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Am I not in order in raising the question, Sir? ”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ If the hon. Member had given a cut motion then his remarks would be in time. But no purpose will be served now.”

The demand was then put and carried, and the grant was made.

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Sir, I propose that item (11) be taken up after item VII—Demands for Excess Grants is finished. Because, I promised, when this grant was before the House, that the rules, by which gentlemen would be recruited to clause (1) of the Madras Educational Rules, would be placed on the table of the House. It has not been possible to place that on the table of the House to-day because the qualifications have not yet had full circulation. That is the reason why I wish to take it after that.”

The motion was duly seconded.

The motion was then put and adopted.

VIII

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS TOWN-PLANNING ACT, 1920

(BILL NO. 14 OF 1929)

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—“ I beg to present the report^a of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill to amend the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, and move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.”

(a) Printed as Appendix V on pages 129-144 infra.